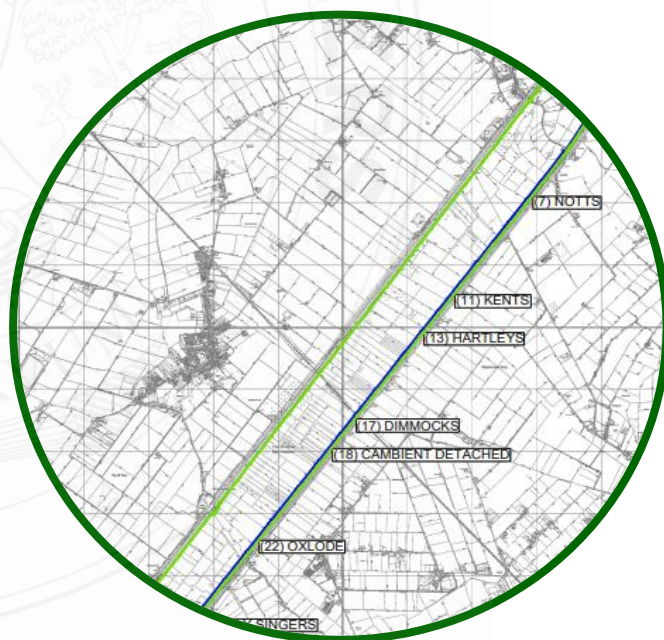




Biodiversity Action Plan

2026 – 2031

**Hundred Foot
Washes**
Internal Drainage Board



1. Statement

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared by the Middle Level Commissioners on behalf of Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board. It demonstrates the Board's commitment to fulfilling its duty as a public body, in accordance with the Environment Act 2021, to conserve and enhance biodiversity whilst exercising their statutory functions.

Importantly, it reflects the Board's aspiration to maximise the outcomes for biodiversity, particularly priority UK species and habitats and the wider environment in general, through its day to day activities, by setting clear objectives, actions and targets, and then taking action. It also highlights the recognition of its vital role in contributing towards a wider thriving natural environment.

The Board has adopted this Biodiversity Action Plan as one of its policies and is committed to its implementation. It will be reviewed annually and updated every 5 years.

Signed Date

S Calton

Chairman of the Board

Note: We would welcome appropriate involvement in the delivery of the Plan from interested organisations, companies, and individuals.

You can contact us about this Biodiversity Action Plan by writing to the following address:

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board
The Drainage Office,
Main St,
PRICKWILLOW,
Nr Ely,
Cambridgeshire,
CB7 4UN

Or via email:

jean@elydrainageboards.gov.uk

Further information is available on the Board's website:

TBC

Contents

1. Statement.....	2
2. Executive Summary	5
3. Introduction	6
3.1. What is biodiversity and why is it important?.....	6
3.2. Legislative Background	6
3.3. Policy & Strategic Background	7
3.4. UK Biodiversity Indicators.....	7
3.5. Purpose	9
3.6. Vision	9
3.7. Aims.....	9
4. The IDB BAP Process	10
4.1. The Biodiversity Audit	10
4.2. Objectives and Actions	10
4.3. Monitoring and Reporting	10
5. The Biodiversity Audit	11
5.1. The Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage District	11
5.2. Map of Audit Area (Drainage District).....	12
5.3. Geology & Soils	15
5.4. Peat	16
5.5. Landscape Character	17
5.6. Landscape Designations	17
5.7. Sites and Monuments.....	17
5.8. Tree Preservation Orders.....	20
5.9. Statutory Nature Conservation Sites	20
5.9.1 Internationally Designated Sites	20
5.9.2 Nationally Designated Sites.....	21
5.9.3 Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	21
5.9.4 Non-statutory Nature Conservation Sites.....	21
5.10. Habitat Audit Summary.....	28
5.10.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Habitats	33
5.11. Species Audit Summary	33
5.11.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategy Species.....	43
5.12. Invasive Non-native Species Summary.....	49
5.13. Water Level Management Plans	51
6. Habitat and Species Action Plans	52
6.1. Introduction.....	52
6.2. Habitat Action Plans	52
6.2.1 IDB Ditches.....	52
6.2.1.1 IDB Ditch Objectives:.....	52
6.2.1.2 IDB Ditch Actions.....	52
6.2.2 Wet Grasslands (Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh (CFPGM) & Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland (GQSIG) and Lowland Fen).....	53
6.2.2.1 Wet Grassland Objectives	54
6.2.2.2 Wet Grassland Actions	54
6.2.3 Ponds (pools, shallows, splashes, scrapes & other areas of inundation)	54
6.2.3.1 Ponds Objectives.....	55
6.2.4 Reedbeds	55
6.2.4.1 Reedbeds Objectives	55
6.2.4.2 Reedbeds Actions	55
6.3. Species Action Plans.....	55
6.3.1 Notes on species without specific actions	56
6.3.2 Birds.....	56
6.3.2.1 Birds Objectives:.....	56
6.3.2.2 Birds Actions.....	56
6.3.3 Mammals	57

6.3.3.1 Mammals Objectives:	57
6.3.3.2 Mammals Actions	58
6.3.4 Trees.....	60
6.3.4.1 Trees Objectives:.....	60
6.3.4.2 Trees Actions.....	60
6.3.5 Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)	61
6.3.5.1 INNS Objectives:	61
6.3.5.2 INNS Actions:	61
7. Procedural Action Plan	62
7.1. Introduction	62
7.2. Procedural Objectives	62
7.3. Procedural Actions	62
8. Monitoring.....	63
9. Reporting	63
10. Appendices	64
10.1. Appendix I – National Character Area 46 – The Fens - Detailed Statements of Environmental Opportunity	64

2. Executive Summary

The UK is one of the most nature impoverished countries on the planet and Cambridgeshire is one of the most nature depleted counties in the UK. It's no wonder that protecting and improving biodiversity and the environment are higher than ever on the political agenda. The Government is looking for strong and proactive environmental delivery from Public Authorities to contribute towards their own challenging statutory environmental targets. The public services provided by Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board (IDB) are no exception.

All IDBs will increasingly be expected to implement more sustainable approaches to water level and flood risk management. Proactively contributing to biodiversity conservation and enhancement is a vital part of this, and is a statutory requirement of Hundred Foot Washes IDB, as a modern Public Authority. Through their water level management activities, Hundred Foot Washes IDB is well placed to conserve and enhance a great range of habitats and species, particularly those associated with freshwater, riparian and wetland habitats.

Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) provide IDBs with a formal mechanism to demonstrate and record their contribution to biodiversity conservation and enhancement. While biodiversity conservation thinking has evolved and some new approaches are being taken to protect and enhance our nature, the IDB BAP approach remains the most suitable tool to help IDBs to deliver their statutory conservation duties.

This revised BAP takes into account the most up to date legislation, policy and best practice, and includes current local strategies, plans and priorities for nature conservation. An up-to-date biodiversity audit has also been completed which has identified the valuable habitats and species within the district, but also sets out objectives to achieve improved biodiversity in general. These new and challenging targets and objectives have been set to ensure that the IDB continues to contribute to the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and meet the associated new legislative requirements.

3. Introduction

3.1. What is biodiversity and why is it important?

Biodiversity can be defined simply as “the variety of life” and encompasses the whole spectrum of living organisms, including plants, birds, mammals and insects. It includes both common and rare species, as well as the genetic diversity within species. Biodiversity also refers to the habitats and ecosystems that support these species.

Biodiversity is part of our natural capital, a vital resource providing:

- Supply of ecosystem services including clean water, nutrients, climate change mitigation, flood mitigation, carbon storage and pollination;
- Life resources including food, medicine, energy and raw materials;
- Improved health and well-being;
- Landscape and cultural distinctiveness;
- Direct economic benefits from biodiversity resources and ‘added value’ through local economic activity and tourism;
- Educational, recreational and amenity resources.

This Biodiversity Action Plan is part of a much larger biodiversity framework that encompasses international, national and local levels of legislation and policy and which also include ecosystem services and climate change.

3.2. Legislative Background

When carrying out its functions, an IDB must pay particular regard to the effects their actions have on the natural environment. Some environmental legislation relates specifically to maintaining or restoring the condition of protected sites or protecting certain species, but there are also statutory duties for IDBs to conserve and enhance biodiversity in general, in and alongside the watercourses they manage and the wider landscape.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places a duty on IDBs to conserve biodiversity. The Environment Act 2021 extends this duty to also include the enhancement of biodiversity, and associated statutory reporting to demonstrate the actions they have taken to do so. Below is a list of key environmental legislation (by no means an exhaustive list) relevant to the work of IDBs:

- The Environment Act 2021
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009
- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40)
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (Land Drainage Improvement Works) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- Land Drainage Act 1994
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992

- Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975
- Hedgerow Regulations 2024

3.3. Policy & Strategic Background

In 1992 at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, commonly known as the **Rio Earth Summit**, the UK signed the Convention on Biological Diversity which pledged its commitment to contribute towards halting the worldwide loss of habitats and species and their genetic resources. At the 2010 biodiversity summit in Nagoya, Japan, the UK re-affirmed this commitment and the “Biodiversity 2020” white paper was developed setting out how those commitments would be put into action.

Also in 2010, the report by Sir John Lawton “Making Space for Nature” set out that ecological networks were required in order to halt and reverse the declines seen in many threatened species and habitats. The report succinctly made clear that these ecological networks needed to be bigger, more frequent, better in quality, and more joined up in order to be successful in their ambitions.

The Government’s Biodiversity 2020 strategy was published in 2011 and set out the ambition to halt overall loss of England’s biodiversity by 2020. The publication of the 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) followed along with the first UK Environmental Improvement Plan; a more long-term strategy for nature recovery beyond 2020. The Environment Act 2021 further provided for the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and along with the EIP, helps to better define the priorities, targets, and goals for successful nature recovery. The enhancements IDBs can make to their management of their arterial networks of drainage channels across the landscape are key to delivering these goals.

Importantly, These policies and strategies take into account the value of the ecological services provided by non-priority species and habitats such as the carbon sequestration of wetlands, the flood alleviation of tree-planting in the uplands and the wellbeing benefits brought about by green space. As such, this BAP presents the actions planned by the IDB to support both priority and non-priority species.

Numerous national and international reports have recognized and reaffirmed that climate change in particular is considered to be one of the biggest threats to our biodiversity now, and in the future. Supporting the continuity, connectivity and quality of habitat through management, restoration and expansion of our drainage ditches may help even the less mobile species to adapt more easily to climate change. This BAP presents the actions the IDB can take to support climate resilience for biodiversity.

3.4. UK Biodiversity Indicators

The latest (Dec 2025) update of the UK Biodiversity Indicators (UKBIs), produced each year by DEFRA and JNCC, give a snapshot of the current status of biodiversity in the UK, and track trends over time, showing whether aspects of biodiversity are improving, declining, or remaining stable.

The UKBIs are used in reporting the UK’s progress against goals and targets agreed under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**. The UKBIs include 39 indicators, comprising 68 measures in total.

The overall summary for 2025 concludes that more indicators are deteriorating or showing no change than improving, over both the long and short term.

The table below is an extract of the full list of indicators and measures and includes those that could be influenced by the activities of the IDB. Regardless of the current status or trend of the indicator, its presence in the UKBIs is sufficient reason for it to be recognized by IDBs as one that should be a priority for action and therefore included as part of this BAP.

Table 1: Extract of the UKBI summary table of trends and status of indicators and measures as at December 2025

Key:			
		Deteriorating	Improving
		Little or no overall change	Not assessed / Insufficient data
Indicator	Measure	Long term period	Short term period
Birds of the wider countryside and at sea	All bird species	1970 to 2024	2019 to 2024
	Breeding birds on farmland	1970 to 2024	2019 to 2024
	Breeding birds in woodland	1970 to 2024	2019 to 2024
	Breeding wetland birds	1975 to 2024	2019 to 2024
	Breeding seabirds	1986 to 2024	2019 to 2024
	Wintering waterbirds	1975/1976 to 2023/2024	2018/2019 to 2023/2024
	Breeding upland birds	1994 to 2024	2019 to 2024
Insects of the wider countryside (butterflies)	All species of butterfly	1976 to 2024	2014 to 2024
	Habitat specialist butterflies	1990 to 2024	2014 to 2024
	Generalist butterflies	1990 to 2024	2014 to 2024
	Farmland specialist butterflies	1990 to 2024	2014 to 2024
	Woodland specialist butterflies	1990 to 2024	2014 to 2024
Mammals of the wider countryside (bats)	Change in the abundance of bat populations	1999 to 2023	2018 to 2023
Plants of the wider countryside in the UK	Arable field margins		
	Bog and wet heath		
	Broadleaved woodland and hedges		
	Lowland grassland		
Status of priority species: distribution	Priority species distribution		
Status of priority species: relative abundance	Priority species abundance	1970 to 2023	2018 to 2023
Status of threatened species: species of European importance	Conservation status of species of European importance	2007 to 2019	2013 to 2019
Area of land in agri-environment schemes	Area of land under higher-level or targeted agri-environment schemes	1992 to 2022	2017 to 2022
Extent and condition of protected areas	Total extent of protected areas on land	1950 to 2025	2020 to 2025
	Condition of Areas or Sites of Special Scientific Interest		
Habitat connectivity	Habitat connectivity		
Status of threatened habitats: habitats of European importance	Conservation status of habitats of European importance	2007 to 2019	2013 to 2019
Surface water status	Percentage of UK surface water bodies in High or Good ecological status	2009 to 2024	2019 to 2024
Expenditure on UK and international biodiversity	Non-governmental organisation and private sector spending on biodiversity in the UK	2010/2011 to 2023/2024	2018/2019 to 2023/2024
Integration of biodiversity considerations into business activity	Proportion of medium and large UK businesses with ISO 14001 certification		
Pressure from invasive species	Number of terrestrial species establishments	1969 to 2024	
	Number of freshwater species establishments	1969 to 2024	
	Rate of establishment	1920 to 2022	2017 to 2022
Awareness, understanding and support for conservation	Awareness, understanding and support for conservation		
Status of pollinating insects	Change in the distribution pollinators in the UK		
Biodiversity data for decision making	Cumulative number of records in the National Biodiversity Network		
	Number of publicly accessible records at 1 square kilometre resolution or better		
Biodiversity information for conservation decision making	Number of records downloaded		2019 to 2024
	Number of download events		2019 to 2024
	Number of NBN Atlas users		2019 to 2024

3.5. Purpose

This BAP has been produced to demonstrate how the IDB fulfils its legal obligations to conserve and enhance biodiversity and sets out targets and actions that contribute to local, national and international strategies and policies.

While the IDB has a statutory duty to have regard for the environment whilst carrying out their functions, for example on or within drainage assets such as watercourses and their banks, the IDB has also to give consideration to how they can contribute to the enhancement of the wider environment.

It is not within the scope of this document to set out the IDBs' objectives and actions in relation to wider environmental topics, such as reducing carbon emissions or reducing waste. However, strategies to address such topics may be mentioned in connection to the enhancement of habitats and species, such as peatland restoration and carbon sequestration.

The opportunity to work together to support and enhance biodiversity in partnership with other organisations is sought wherever possible, as the IDB recognises the additional value working in such ways can bring to the overall objectives.

The intention is that biodiversity is fully integrated into the Board's activities, policies and procedures such as annual maintenance programmes, capital works projects, training and communications.

3.6. Vision

The IDB's vision is:

A drainage district where thriving wildlife is an integral part of delivering efficient and effective water-level management.

3.7. Aims

The aims of this BAP are:

- To ensure that opportunities for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are fully considered throughout the IDB's operations;
- To enable more effective monitoring and reporting of progress and outcomes;
- To ensure that priority species and habitats receive effective action within defined targets within the drainage district;
- To identify targets and appropriate actions for other habitats and species of local importance within the drainage district. This includes invasive non-native species;
- To contribute to local environmental partnerships and strategies such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategies to ensure that programmes and priorities for biodiversity conservation are aligned and maintained in the long term;
- To raise awareness, within the IDB and locally, of the need for biodiversity conservation and reporting, and to communicate with the local and wider community about what actions the IDB is undertaking to support biodiversity.

4. The IDB BAP Process

4.1. The Biodiversity Audit

Middle Level Commissioners on behalf of Hundred Foot Washes IDB has conducted a biodiversity audit of its drainage district (Figure 1) and identified those habitats and species that would benefit from particular management or actions by the IDB.

This audit focuses on nationally important priority habitats and species, that is to say those that have been deemed of 'principal importance' in England under the NERC Act 2006. However, those that are not priority species or habitats, but may be locally significant for a variety of reasons have also been considered. Invasive non-native species have also been included.

The information gathered, which is presented in later sections, has been used to develop this IDB's Biodiversity Action Plan.

4.2. Objectives and Actions

Conservation and enhancement **objectives** have been identified for each included habitat and species. The action plan then details individual **actions** required to achieve the objectives, and the associated monitoring and reporting of progress and impact.

In order for this BAP to be as effective as possible, the actions have been devised to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-limited).

Procedural actions have also been considered allowing the Board to measure the way in which it considers and incorporates biodiversity across the whole range of its operations. These may involve changes to administrative, management and operating procedures.

4.3. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring is the on-going process of regularly collecting and analysing relevant information to determine whether the actions within the Plan are positively contributing towards the objectives, and to capture any additional benefit achieved. The Plan sets out how and when this monitoring will take place throughout the life of the plan.

The frequency and type of information reported is also defined by the Plan and includes the publication of progress reports in the public domain via the IDB's website and in accordance with the duty set out in the Environment Act 2021.

The overall plan will be updated at least every 5 years but as this is a dynamic document it may change more frequently. For example, in the light of routine monitoring or local strategy introductions, changes may be necessary to ensure an objective can be met.

5. The Biodiversity Audit

5.1. The Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage District

The drainage district is located within the Ouse Washes to the east of the Middle Level Area in Cambridgeshire.

The following outlines the key details of the District:

- Total area of the drainage district: **2043 ha**
- Catchment area draining to and including the District: **1700m2**
- Area of agricultural land: **1982 ha**
- Area of other (non-agricultural) land: **61 ha**

Assets for which the Board has operational responsibility:

- Water level control structures: 17
- Watercourses (maintained): 20 km
- Raised embankments: N/A
- Reservoirs: N/A
- Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS): N/A
- Pumping Stations: N/A
- Extent of “other” land owned: None

Assets within or adjacent to the District that are maintained by the Environment Agency:

- Main Rivers: 66km
- Raised embankments/flood walls: 66 km
- Pumping Stations: 2 no

5.2. Map of Audit Area (Drainage District)



Figure 1a. Hundred Foot Washes IDB District NORTH



Figure 1b. Hundred Foot Washes IDB District MIDDLE



Figure 1c. Hundred Foot Washes IDB District SOUTH

5.3. Geology & Soils

Bedrock in the majority of the district from the southern extent to Lady Fen is Amphill Clay Formation-Mudstone. These sedimentary rocks are shallow-marine in origin. From Lady Fen to the northern extent, the bedrock changes very slightly to Kimmeridge Clay Formation-Mudstone. Also shallow-marine in origin, they are detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained (locally with some carbonate content) forming interbedded sequences. Bedrock is overlaid mostly with peat with up to the Notts inlet slacker then a narrow band of alluvial deposits of clay, silt and sand cross the district from NW to SE to just past the Deptfords inlet slacker before returning to peat up to the northern extent of the district.

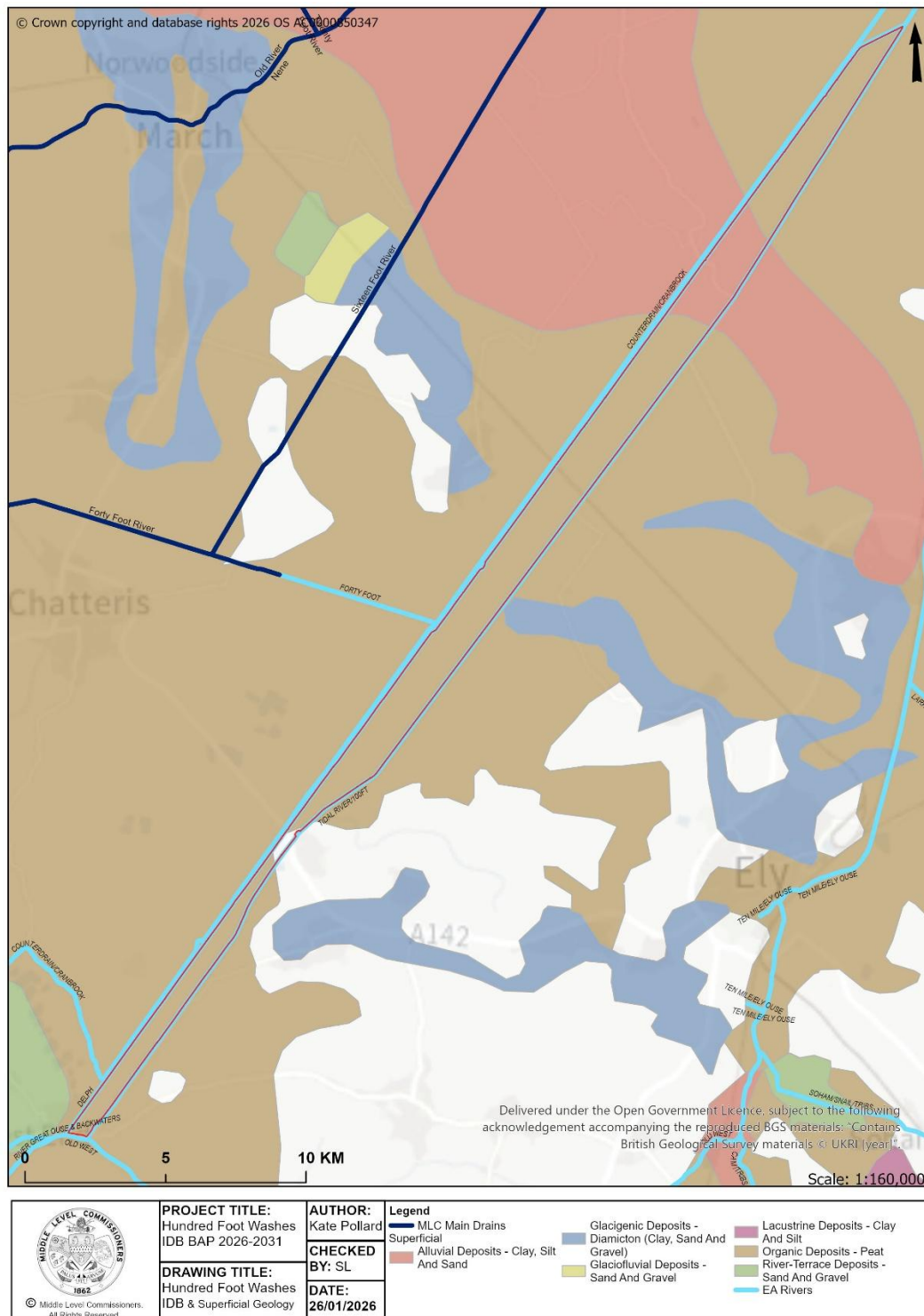


Figure 2. Hundred Foot Washes IDB map of superficial geology

5.4. Peat

Interrogation of all sources available as listed below confirms that there are significant peat deposits within the district. The deeper deposits correspond with the areas shown as peat in the superficial geology map shown in figure 4 above, but there are also patchy peat deposits across the band of alluvial deposits too, although not as deep.

There is surprisingly very little Borehole data available from within the district. The Soilscape data reports predominantly *Fen Peat Soils* with *Loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater* in the narrow diagonal strip crossing the district near to its northern extent, which corresponds with other maps and descriptions presented above. In the southern extent of the district, soilscape suggest *Loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater* is present.

- England Peat Map - <https://england-peat-map-portal-ncea.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Soil Surface Map (below) - [LandIS - Land Information System - Soilscape soil types viewer](#)

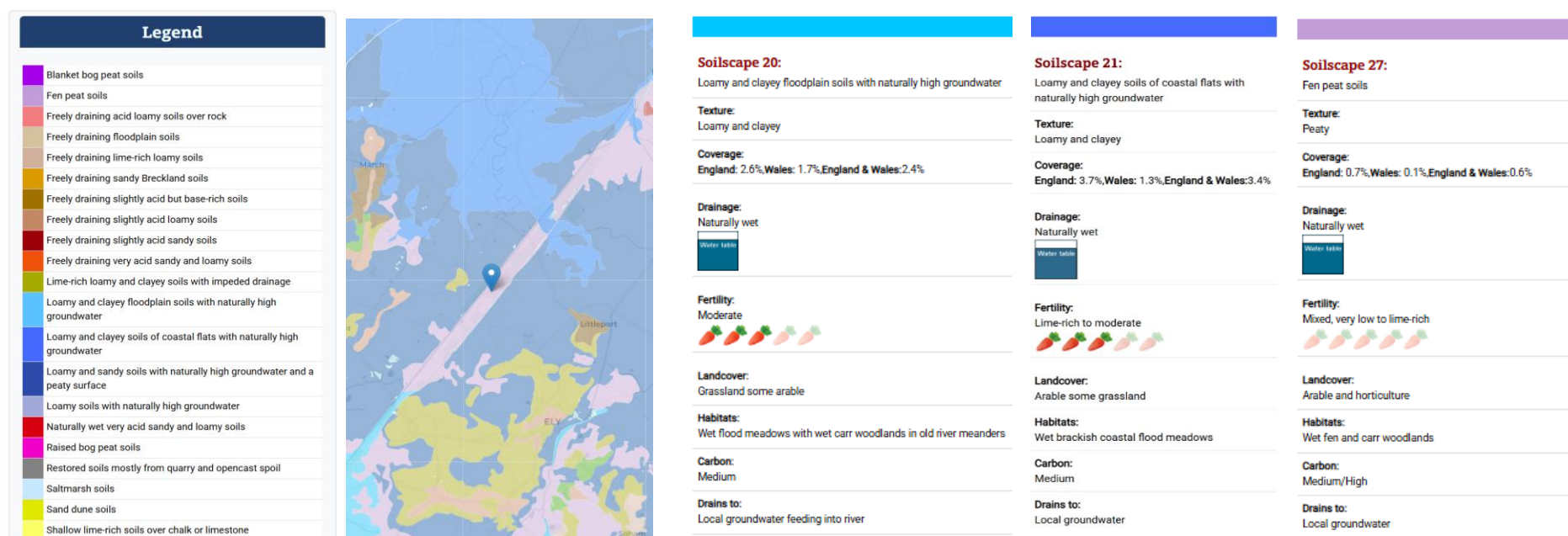


Figure 3. Hundred Foot Washes IDB map of soil types showing predominantly Fen Peat Soils

5.5. Landscape Character

Natural England has divided the whole of England into a number of National Character Areas (NCA) based on characteristic landforms, wildlife and land use. For each NCA, there is a prepared profile that characterises the wildlife and natural features, identifies the influences that act upon those features and sets objectives for nature conservation.

Hundred Foot Washes IDB sits within the Fens as shown in figure 4 below. The NCA has a number of environmental enhancement targets defined within it, called Statements of Environmental Opportunity, (SEO). As part of this BAP, these have been reviewed and those that can be influenced or controlled by the IDB have been included as part of the BAP objectives. The full list of environmental opportunities are included in Appendix I but a summary is as follows:

The Fens Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO)

- **SEO 1:** Manage the agricultural landscape and soils which allow the Fens to be a major provider of food and horticultural produce, while seeking to enhance opportunities for biodiversity.
- **SEO 2:** Manage the core wetland complexes and increase their connectivity by enhancing the main rivers, waterways and their associated riparian habitats and improve recreational access opportunities to the Fens.
- **SEO 3:** Plan for the creation of new coastal landscapes in the Wash area that are adapted and resilient to the impact of climate change, for the benefit of people and wildlife.
- **SEO 4:** Conserve, manage and enhance the Fens landscape and increase educational opportunities to access its geodiversity, archaeology and cultural heritage to enhance enjoyment and understanding for those who live and work in and visit the Fens.

5.6. Landscape Designations

N/A

5.7. Sites and Monuments

The southernmost extent of the district for approx. 500m sits within the Earith Conservation Area. Within the same area, the scheduled Ancient Monument of The Bulwark: a Civil War fieldwork and World War II gun emplacement can be found, 150m north of Earith Bridge, as shown in Figure 7.

There are no IDB ditches in this area and the IDB does not have sole control over water levels within the district, particularly in this area so the IDB has limited influence over the conservation status of the site.

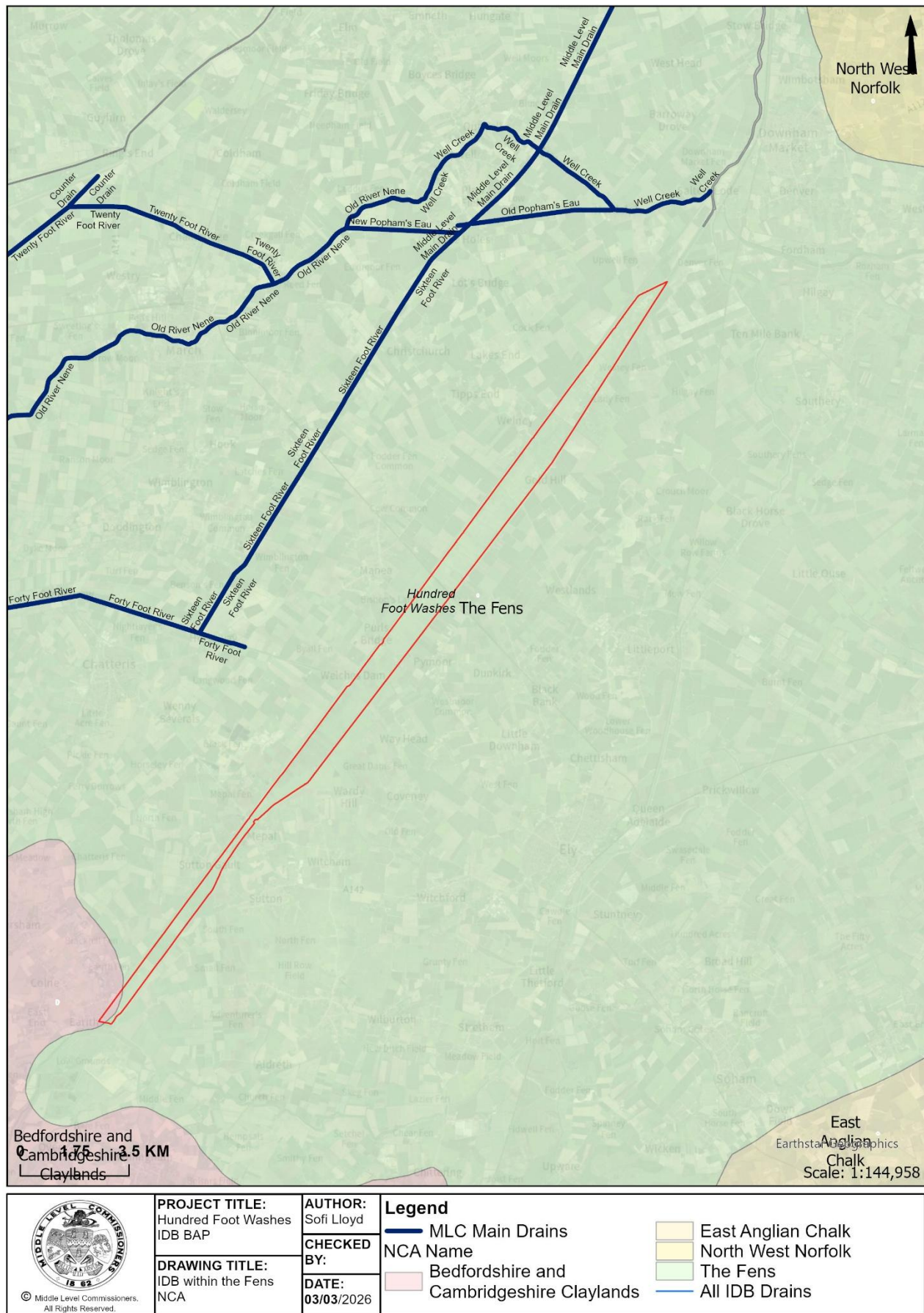


Figure 4. Map of Hundred Foot Washes IDB within the Fens NCA



Figure 5. Map of heritage features within Hundred Foot Washes IDB Area

5.8. Tree Preservation Orders

There are no protected trees or protected tree areas within the Hundred Foot Washes IDB Area.

5.9. Statutory Nature Conservation Sites

5.9.1 Internationally Designated Sites

Note: The IDB district sits entirely within the designated site

Site Name	Designation	Assoc. WLMP? *	Desc.	Features Relevant to IDB
Ouse Washes	Ramsar	Y	One of the most extensive areas of seasonally-flooding washland of its type in Britain. Managed in a traditional agricultural manner, the washlands support nationally and internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl and nationally important numbers of breeding waterfowl. The site is also of note for the large area of unimproved neutral grassland communities which it holds, and for the richness of the aquatic flora within the associated watercourses. Designated for the following features: • Bewick's swan, <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> - Wintering • Pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i> - Wintering • Shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i> - Wintering • Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i> - Wintering • Washland • Waterbird assemblage - Wintering • Wetland bird assemblage - Breeding • Wetland invertebrate assemblage • Wetland plant assemblage • Whooper swan, <i>Cygnus</i> - Wintering • Wigeon, <i>Mareca penelope</i> - Wintering	The IDB ditches are part of the designated features.
Ouse Washes	SAC		A stronghold for Spined Loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i>	The IDB district's north western boundary sits along the SAC boundary which is the area spanning the Cranbrook and counter drain and Delph.
Ouse Washes	SPA	No mgmt. plan	An internationally important wetland site designated for the following species: • Bewick's swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>), Non-breeding • Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa islandica</i>), Breeding • Breeding bird assemblage, Breeding • Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>), Breeding • Garganey (<i>Anas querquedula</i>), Breeding • Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>), Non-breeding • Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>), Breeding • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), Non-breeding • Ruff (<i>Calidris pugnax</i>), Breeding • Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>), Breeding • Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>), Non-breeding • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Non-breeding • Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding • Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>), Non-breeding • Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>), Non-breeding	The IDB ditches are a fundamental part of the conservation of the designated species

5.9.2 Nationally Designated Sites

Note: The IDB district sits entirely within the designated site

Site Name	Designation	Assoc. WLMP? *	Desc.	Features Relevant to IDB
Ouse Washes	SSSI	Y	One of the country's few remaining areas of extensive washland habitat. It is of particular note for the large numbers of wildfowl and waders which it supports, for the large area of unimproved neutral grassland communities which it holds and for the richness of the aquatic fauna and flora within the associated watercourses. The capacity of the site to hold wintering and breeding waterfowl and waders is of international significance. See Appendix for details.	The IDB ditches are a fundamental part of the conservation of the designated species

5.9.3 Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

N/A

5.9.4 Non-statutory Nature Conservation Sites

There are number of County Wildlife Sites that sit outside the IDB boundary around the Ouse Washes. They are unlikely to be influenced by the activities of the IDB.



Figure 6a. Map of Internationally Designated Nature Sites in IDB Area NORTH

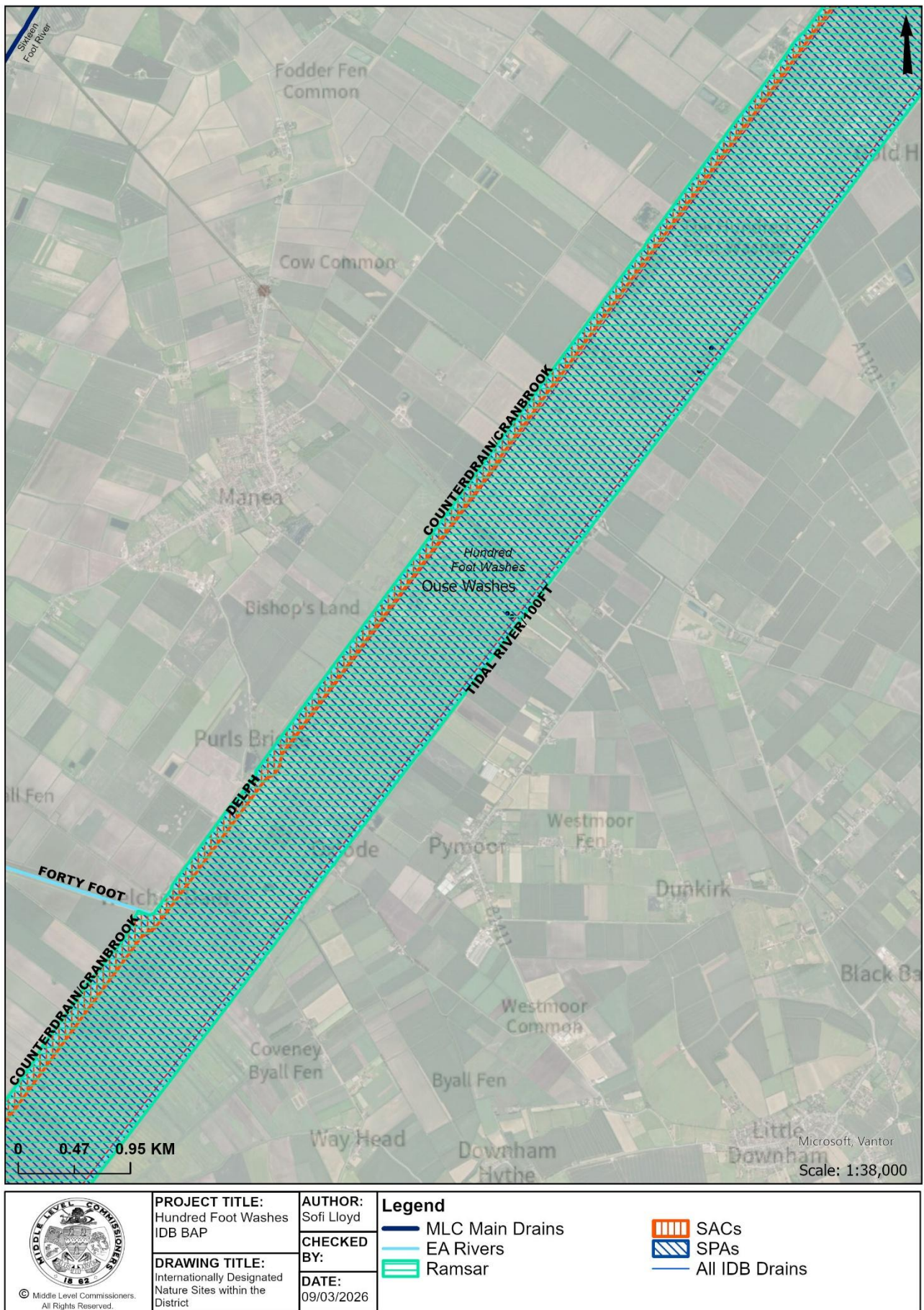


Figure 6b. Map of Internationally Designated Nature Sites in IDB Area MIDDLE

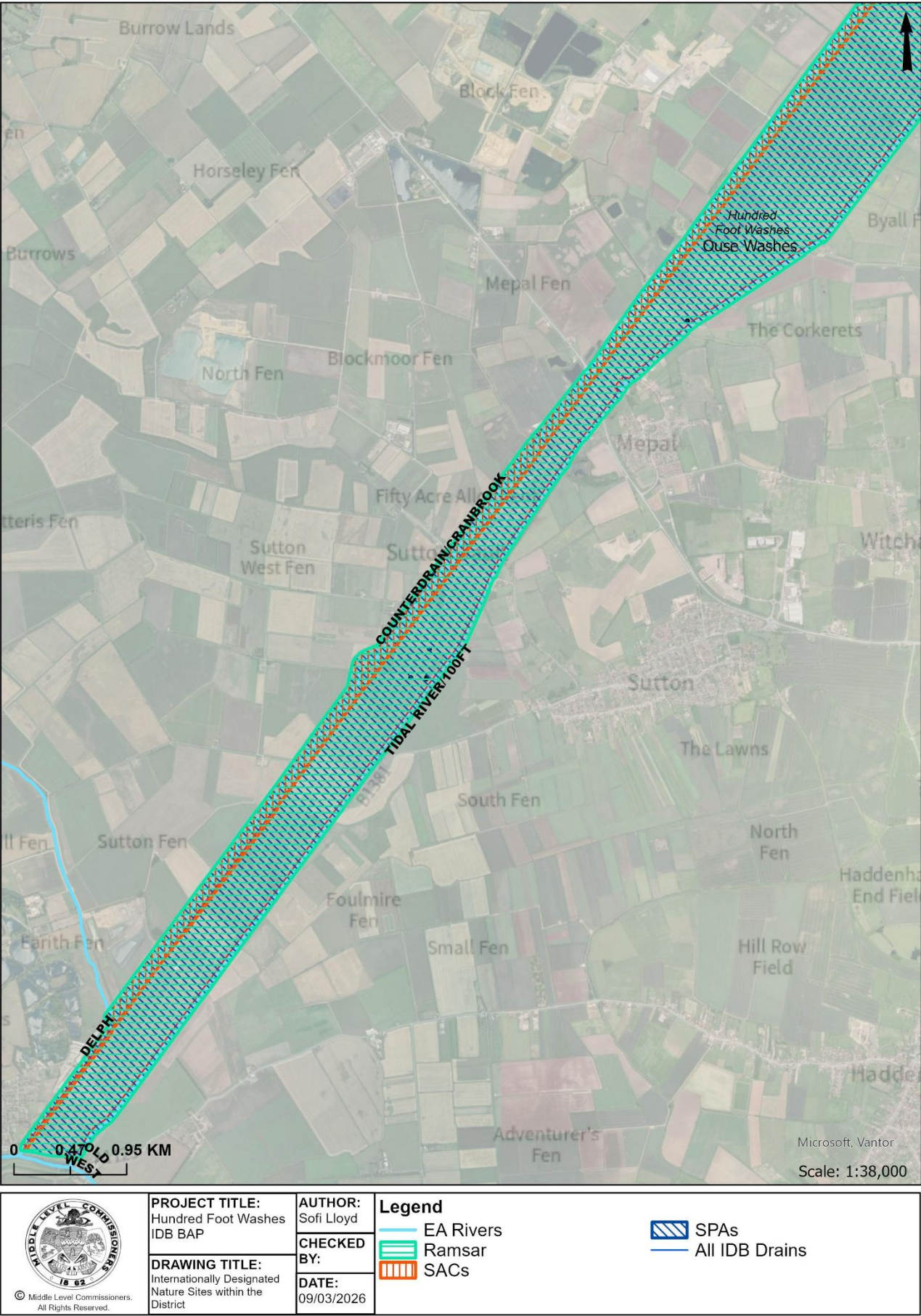
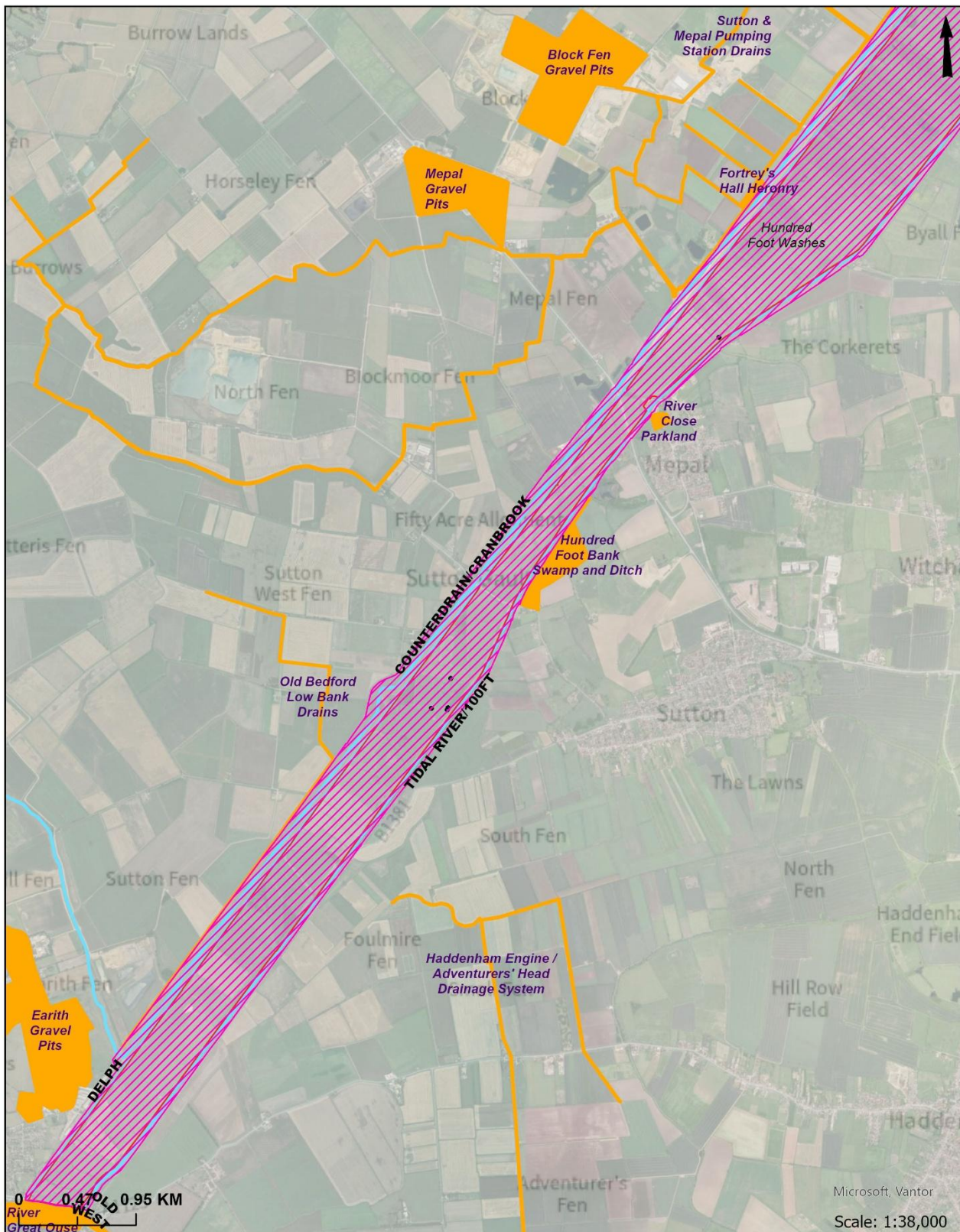


Figure 6c. Map of Internationally Designated Nature Sites in IDB Area SOUTH



 © Middle Level Commissioners. All Rights Reserved.	PROJECT TITLE: Hundred Foot Washes IDB BAP	AUTHOR: Sofi Lloyd	Legend  EA Rivers  SSSIs  Cambs CWS 2025  All IDB Drains
	DRAWING TITLE: N Nationally and Locally Designated Nature Sites within the District	CHECKED BY: 	
		DATE: 09/03/2026	

Figure 2a. Map of Nationally and Locally Designated Nature Sites in IDB Area SOUTH

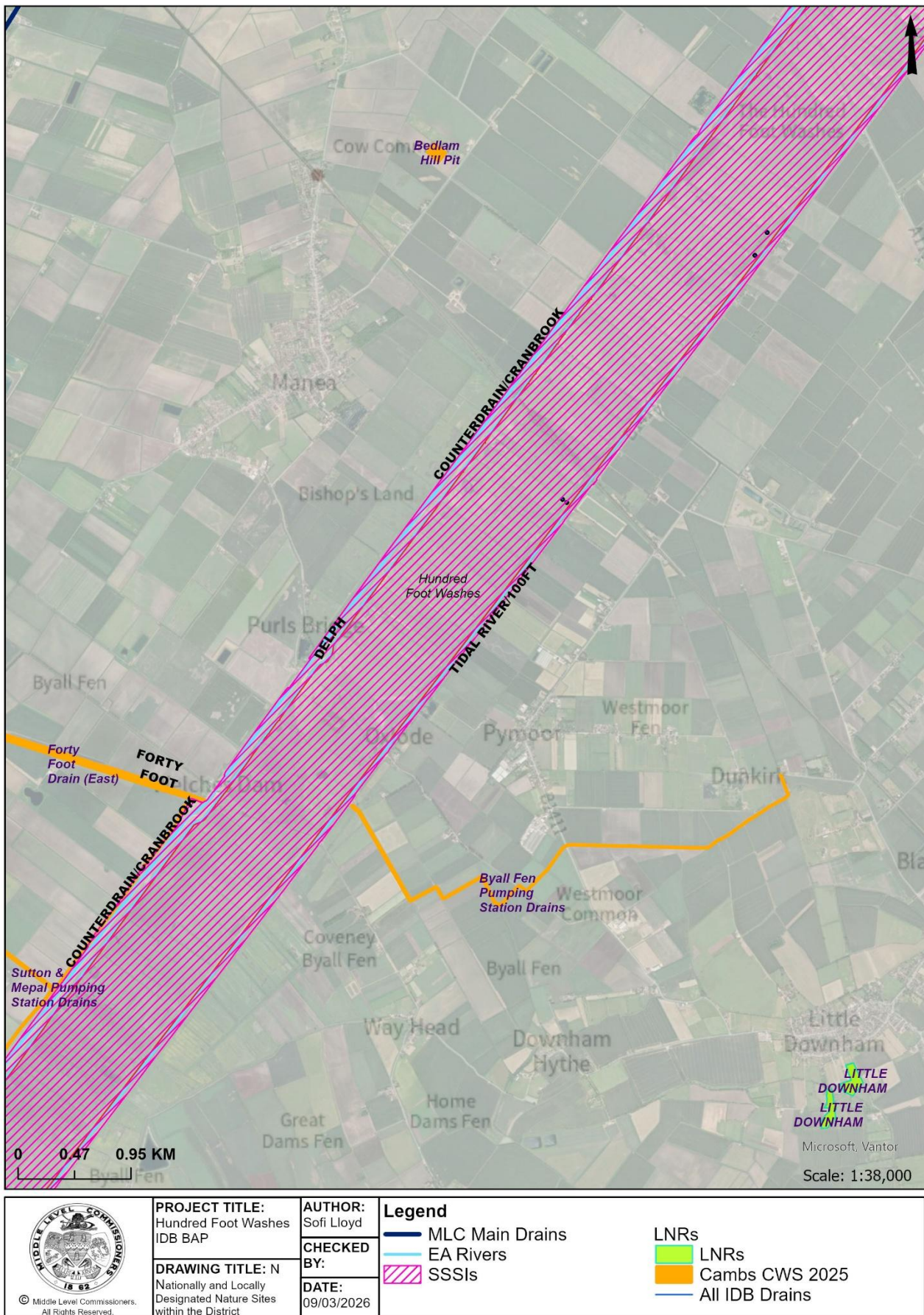


Figure 3b. Map of Nationally and Locally Designated Nature Sites in IDB Area MIDDLE

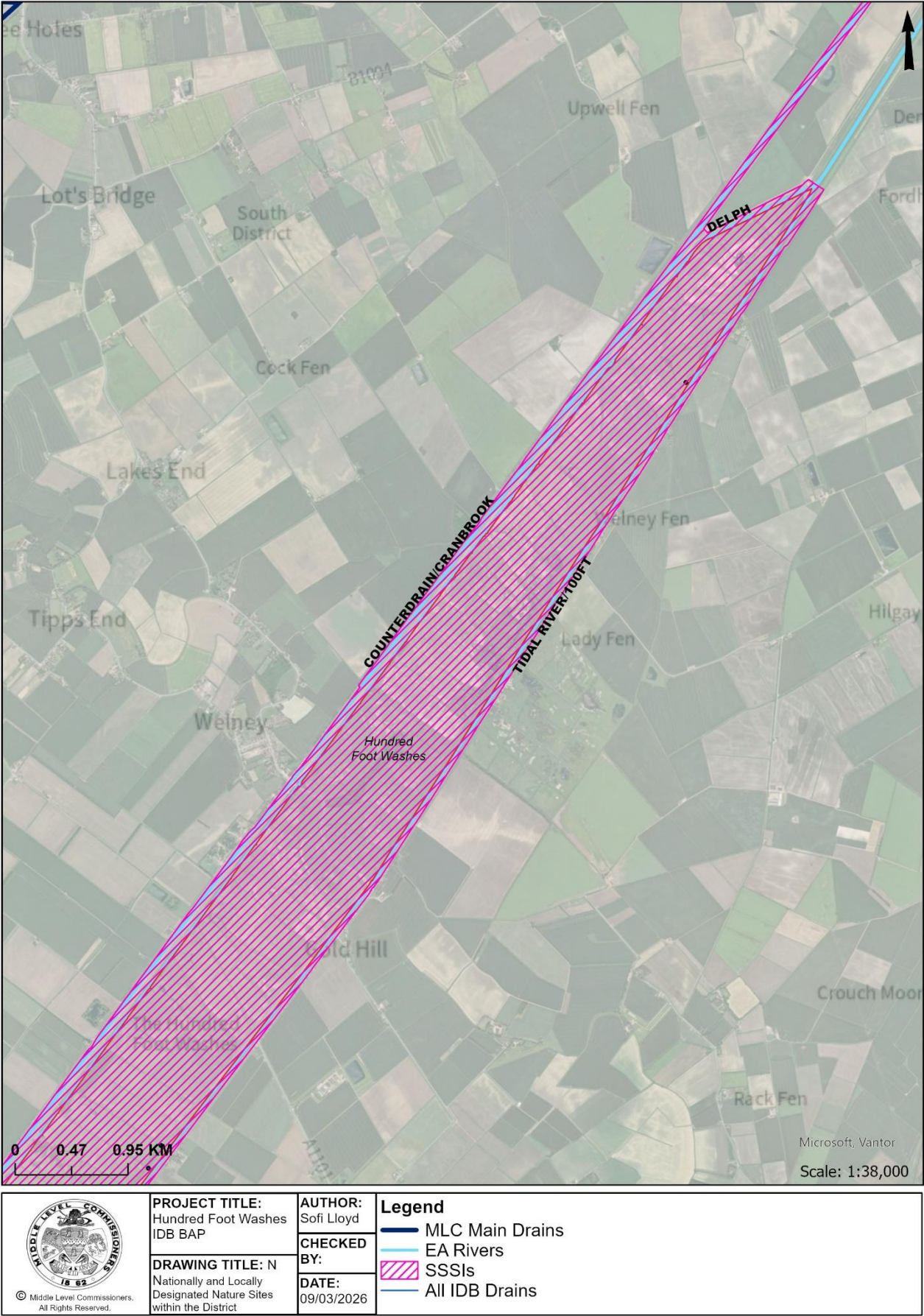


Figure 4c. Map of Nationally and Locally Designated Nature Sites in IDB Area SOUTH

5.10. Habitat Audit Summary

This habitat audit summary lists the UK and priority habitats that occur within the drainage district. A map of the Priority Habitats polygons within the district are shown in Figure 8. Linear and more general priority habitats are not mapped. Brief notes are included on the potential for the IDB to maintain, restore or expand the habitats present.

Table 5. Habitat Audit Summary

National Priority Habitat	National Status & Extent	Habitat classification	National Targets	Local Priority Habitat	Local Status and Extent	Local Targets	IDB Potential for Maintaining, Restoring or Expanding Habitat (high/medium/low)
Good quality semi-improved grassland	Huge decline in area since 1930's, highly fragmented, declining condition trends nationally	BNG: Grassland UKHab: G4 Modified Grassland	Focus of conservation and restoration efforts to unimproved grasslands nationally but no direct target as not always considered a priority habitat strictly.	Grasslands & Wetland (LNRS)	Significant extent within district – 45.5 ha	We3 -enhance and create floodplain wet grassland sites to better support breeding and wintering wetland birds (LNRS)	Med – Habitats adjacent to IDB ditches so could be influenced by water levels. Look for opportunities to support and encourage the favourable management of the habitat including via complimentary channel management and favourable water level management within the ditches.
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	220,000 ha in England approx.	BNG: Floodplain Wetland Mosaic UKHab: Lowland Meadow G3a / 19 (CFPGM) or 55 (Floodplain Wetland Mosaic)	Aim to improve natural function wherever possible as part of future restoration within the floodplain. Aim for the habitat to meet “good condition” as per BNG habitat condition assessments.	Wetland (LNRS)	Most of the district hectareage is this habitat type – approx. 1730 ha	We3 -enhance and create floodplain wet grassland sites to better support breeding and wintering wetland birds (LNRS)	Med – Habitats adjacent to IDB ditches so could be influenced by water levels. Look for opportunities to support and encourage the favourable management of the habitat including via complimentary channel management and favourable water level management within the ditches.
Deciduous Woodlands	967,000 ha in England	BNG: Woodland UKHab: W1f7 Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	By 2050 achieve a minimum of 16.5% of land covered by woodland/trees outside woodland Annual planting of 30,000 hectares (ha) of new woodland per year.	Woodland (LNRS)	Locally very rare and highly fragmented	Woodlands – various.	Low – Not on land owned or managed by the IDB. Use IDB networks to encourage its retention, favourable management and support its expansion if appropriate.

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

No Main Habitat	N/A	A "main" habitat type cannot be assigned but potentially significant habitats are still present	Protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030	Habitat Mosaic (LNRS)	Locally very rare and highly fragmented, approx. 12.5ha	M1 - Improve the diversity of habitats at a landscape and site-scale to increase the diversity and abundance of species and make them more resilient to climate change.	Med – Not on land owned or managed by the IDB. Use IDB networks to encourage its retention, favourable management and support its expansion/improvement if appropriate. Adopt complimentary ditch management approaches as per the SOPs
Traditional Orchard	24,600 to 27,000 ha	BNG: Traditional Orchard UKHab: Grassland – Traditional Orchard	4,700 hectares of traditional orchards to be created or brought into favorable condition (25YEP)	Woodland (LNRS)	One very small patch mid-district – 1ha	W08 - Improve the management of traditional orchards and seek to expand them where possible.	Med – Orchards traditional relied upon IDBs holding water levels high in adjacent drains in the summer months. Those that are adjacent to IDB drains could benefit, if restored, from IDB water level management..
Reedbeds	40% loss over previous 80 years, 5-7.5k ha	BNG: Wetland-Reedbeds UKHab: Wetlands-reedbeds f2e	Protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030	Wetland (LNRS)	One small patch approx. 1.5ha	We4 - sustainably manage established reedbeds to preserve their important role as a valuable habitat and carbon sink	Med - Habitats adjacent to IDB ditches so could be influenced by water levels. Look for opportunities to support and encourage the favourable management of the habitat including via complimentary channel management and favourable water level management within the ditches.
Lowland Fen	Only 1% of original fen left in the UK. Highly fragmented small patches	BNG: Wetland-Fens UKHab: Wetlands-Lowland Fens f2a, b or f	Protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030	Wetland (LNRS)	Small parcels south of the centre of the district approx. 35ha	We2 - identify and prioritise areas for the protection of peat to restore fen habitats and reduce carbon losses from the We3A – manage floodplain wetland mosaics through sustainable grazing to create habitats that are wetter for longer and support a greater diversity and abundance of wetland flora and fauna, including breeding and wintering wetland birds. We3 - enhance and create floodplain wet grassland sites to better support breeding and wintering wetland birds	Med - Habitats adjacent to IDB ditches so could be influenced by water levels. Look for opportunities to support and encourage the favourable management of the habitat including via complimentary channel management and favourable water level management within the ditches.
Rivers & Streams	n/a	Fen Main Drains and drainage ditches	WFD - Improving at least 75% of waters to Good Ecological Status or Potential by 2027	Rivers, chalk streams & drainage ditches (LNRS)	Locally abundant	RD5 - enhance the network of fenland farm drainage ditches by providing habitat buffers and improving water quality	High – Manage ditches according to best practice & SOPs to maximise opportunities for biodiversity



Figure 5a. Map of Priority Habitats in Hundred Foot Washes SOUTH IDB

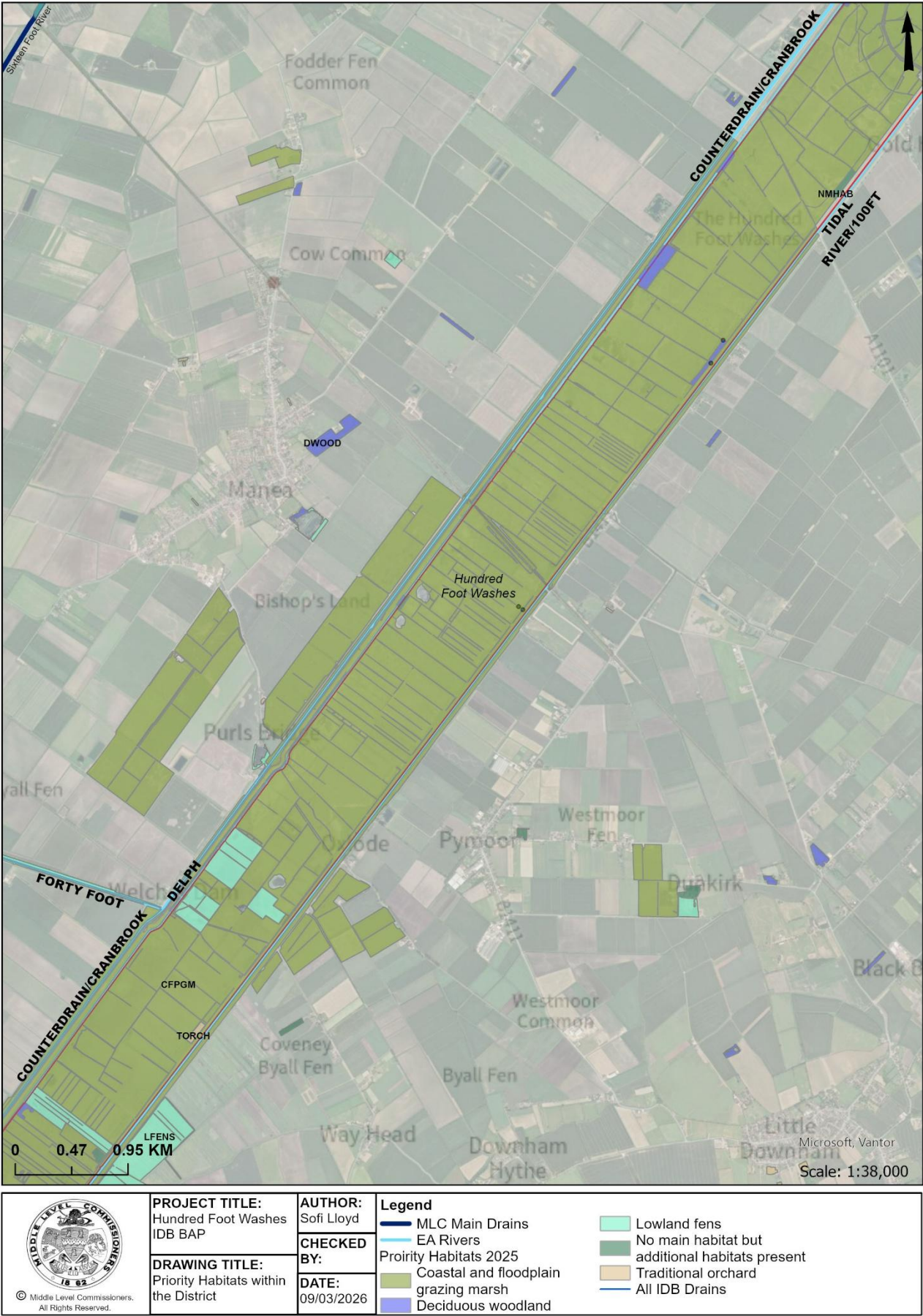


Figure 6b. Map of Priority Habitats in Hundred Foot Washes MIDDLE IDB



Figure 7c. Map of Priority Habitats in Hundred Foot Washes NORTH IDB

5.10.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Habitats

The Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) for Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, published in late 2025, identify a number of habitats that are of importance for conservation and creation within Cambs and Norfolk. As the IDB District falls entirely within the area that has several statutory nature conservation designations, the LNRS's do not identify any further actions that can be taken above those which are already planned and in place as part of the statutory conservation objectives for the sites.

5.11. Species Audit Summary

There are 258 protected, priority or other notable species that have previously been recorded within the IDB district, as reported by the Local Environmental Records Centres (LERC). Of these, 185 species are associated with the habitats the Board manages and so could be influenced by the Boards' activities. Hundred Foot Washes sits astride the Norfolk and Cambs county boundary, therefore data from both Norfolk and Cambridgeshire LERC has been included. A table listing these species is provided below.

Table : Rare, protected, notable and priority species previously recorded within the drainage district:

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Potential for IDBs to influence	Species Info
Amphibian	Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	HabRegs2, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5, LNRS	Low. Create ponds where possible. Search for in surveys.	Favourable habitat in fen ditches
Birds	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	WCA1i, LNRS	Yes. Seek local conservation projects to support / fund.	ID opportunities for IDBs near Ouse and Nene washes to become involved in/fund conservation projects or create wetland sites
	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS	Limited. Promote uptake of environmental stewardship riparian buffer strip options to provide insect-rich foraging near nest sites.	Ground nester in farmland. One of the most strongly declining birds in Europe but Cambs. is a stronghold
	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS	Limited. Promote uptake of environmental stewardship riparian buffer strip options. Record sightings.	Localised breeding species in the county, with the main populations in Cambs. in the South Cambs. chalk areas. Promote Environmental stewardship alongside IDB drains for a number of reasons
	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA1i, LNRS	Moderate. Look for opportunities to create and manage reedbeds such as old pump drains. Record sightings.	Look for opportunities to create and manage reedbeds such as old pump drains. (if floodplain mosaic creation or enhancement)

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

Birds	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	CPASI, LNRS	Moderate. Look for opportunities to create and/or restore reedbeds and wetland habitats. Manage ditches to maximise diversity.	Now over a dozen pairs and a wintering population in excess of 80 individuals, making Cambs. and Pboro a key county. Continued management of existing and creation of new areas of mixed wetland will bolster breeding numbers further - IDB action.
	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS	Moderate. Rotationally manage ditch vegetation to maximise diversity which will support better numbers of inverts for chick food. Encourage cereal retention options in stewardship agreements next to ditches. Record sightings.	A key farmland indicator species. Has had a dramatic decline nationally and has been lost from many areas of the county but still remains in good numbers locally. Availability of invertebrates in summer and seeds in the winter are key to its abundance. Manage ditch vegetation to maximise diversity which will support better numbers of inverts.
	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	WCA1i, LNRS	Yes. Check and maintain artificial nest sites. Retain bank-side trees / scrub as fishing perches and as a refuge for small fish which the bird eats. Record sightings.	Check and maintain artificial nest sites. Retain bank-side trees / scrub as fishing perches and as a refuge for small fish which the bird eats.
	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	CPASI, LNRS	Yes. Fund nest boxes and manage ditches to provide insect-rich foraging near nest sites.	Manage ditches to provide insect-rich habitats close to known swift nest sites & fund boxes
	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	CPASI, WCA1i, LNRS	Yes. Manage existing boxes, fund and install new ones where necessary and support box surveys. Retain areas of taller bank veg to support small mammals.	Species is still under threat from a range of factors relating to agricultural intensification and urbanisation. Erect and manage Barn Owl Boxes.
	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS	Yes. Promote uptake of environmental stewardship riparian buffer strip options	Prefers sites with a mixture of habitats including grassland, scrub and reedbed/wetland areas, therefore a good indicator of relatively wild habitats.
	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	WCA1i	Yes. Retain dense mature scrub stands i.e. bramble near water and manage extent rather than remove. Retain bankside trees and pollard rather than remove. Retain marginal and bank vegetation as much as possible and cut banks rotationally outside of bird nesting season. Trim hedges outside bird nesting season. Encourage farmers to establish stewardship margins alongside hedgerows and ditches for foraging. Record sightings.	Reedbed nesters
	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA1i, LNRS		Assoc with fenland fields and washes when overwintering
	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	WCA1i, LNRS		Reedbed nesters
	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	WCA1i		Ground nesters on secluded mud near water - prefer brackish waters
	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	WCA1i		Ground nesters in reed. Very rare breeders but with climate change they could become more frequent
	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Dense hedge and scrub nesters
	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	WCA1i		Dense scrub nesters near water. Uses same nest sites across years.
	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Will often use a reed warbler's nest to lay and egg for them to raise so can be present in nests in reeds.

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

Birds	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS	Yes. Retain dense mature scrub stands i.e. bramble near water and manage extent rather than remove. Retain bankside trees and pollard rather than remove. Retain marginal and bank vegetation as much as possible and cut banks rotationally outside of bird nesting season. Trim hedges outside bird nesting season. Encourage farmers to establish stewardship margins alongside hedgerows and ditches for foraging. Record sightings.	Ground nesters in rough/damp pasture
	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Hedge & scrub nesters
	European White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>	UKBAP; S41		
	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	WCA1i, LNRS		Swampy meadows and marshy area nesters
	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	WCA1ii, LNRS		Nest in holes in trees near water
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	UKBAP		
	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	WCA1ii		Ground nesters in concealed areas in wetlands
	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	WCA1i		Tree nesters hunting across open habitats
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Dense hedge nesters
	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Tree nester in wet woodlands
	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Nest in holes in trees near water
	Limosa limosa islandica	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	WCA1i		Not breeding but overwinter
	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Ground & low scrub/hedge nesters
	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	WCA1i		Ground-nesters using reedbeds and grassy margins
	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	WCA1i		Ground nesters in arable farmland esp. cereals and occasionally in reedbeds
	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	WCA1ii		Ground nesters near water
	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	WCA1i		Habitat available is suitable for breeding but no known breeding in OW yet. Ground nesters in reed.
	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	WCA1i		Ground nesters in farmland
	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	WCA1i		Hedge & scrub nesters
	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Ground, or near to, nesting birds with broods into late August. Favour ditch edges and grass margins.
	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	WCA1i		Ground nesters near water

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

Birds	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA1i	Yes. Retain dense mature scrub stands i.e. bramble near water and manage extent rather than remove. Retain bankside trees and pollard rather than remove. Retain marginal and bank vegetation as much as possible and cut banks rotationally outside of bird nesting season. Trim hedges outside bird nesting season. Encourage farmers to establish stewardship margins alongside hedgerows and ditches for foraging. Record sightings.	Ground nesters near water
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Nest low in hedges and scrub
	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	WCA1i		Ground nesters in reedbeds and wetlands
	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	WCA1i		Ground nesters in wetlands
	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Dense hedge and scrub nesters
	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Ground nesters in tussocky grasses, open sunny habitat with trees nearby
	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Hedge & scrub nesters
	Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	WCA1i		Feed on aquatic plants
	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Hedge & scrub nesters
	Whistling Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus columbianus</i>	WCA1.1		
	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	WCA1i, LNRS		Ground nesters in marshland and farmland
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Ground nesters in damp channel margins and banks and agricultural margins.
	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Ground, or near to, nesting birds with broods into late August. Favour ditch edges and grass margins.
Bony Fish	Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	UKBAP; S41, LNRS	Yes. Retain in-channel marginal vegetation to provide refuge from predators. If pumps are fish friendly, focus operation at night to enable migration. If pumps are not fish friendly, plan replacement to fish friendly pumps and/or eel passes to enable migration. Only desilt centre 2/3rds of channel.	Spends most of its life in European rivers which flow into the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Baltic seas, and migrate to the western sub-tropical Atlantic where it breeds. Retain marginal veg as refuge for them.
Flowering Plant	Fen Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea paludosa</i>	NR, RLENG.CR, RLGB.CR, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA8, LNRS	Possibly. Identify possible reintroduction sites i.e. vegetated drains, old pump drains, dead end drains, reedbed peripheries etc.	Look for reintro sites, particularly in vegetated drains, old pump drains, dead end drains, reedbed peripheries etc.
	Frogbit	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	CPASI, RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU, LNRS	Yes. Maintain a programme of rotational bank cutting and desilting little and often to support aquatic, marginal and terrestrial plants. Where found, and/or diversity is high, identify the historic management regime and maintain it as closely as possible to retain valuable species or make informed improvements to regime to enhance the stand. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
	Greater Water-parsnip	<i>Sium latifolium</i>	NS, RLENG.EN, RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Fenland characteristic species. Found parts of the Ouse Washes. Small populations remain vulnerable. Look for in surveys
	Large-flowered Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU, LNRS		Found in peaty fields and disturbed fen. Look out for in surveys

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

Flowering Plant	Lesser Water-plantain	<i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i>	CPASI, RLENG.VU, RLGB.Lr(NT), LNRS	Yes. Maintain a programme of rotational bank cutting and desilting little and often to support aquatic, marginal and terrestrial plants. Where found, and/or diversity is high, identify the historic management regime and maintain it as closely as possible to retain valuable species or make informed improvements to regime to enhance the stand. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	Only a few sites now have significant numbers. Under threat from a range of factors. Survey for them annually.
	Marsh Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria palustris</i>	RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Strong old wet grassland indicator. Present at less than ten sites in Cambs. and Pboro and at risk in many of them. Look for in surveys near Nene, Ouse and WWF
	Mousetail	<i>Myosurus minimus</i>	CPASI, RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU, LNRS		
	Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>	CPASI, NS, LNRS		Characteristic flood meadow species. Mostly restricted to a few sites in the River Great Ouse valley area. IDBs near Ouse washes only
	Opposite-leaved Pondweed	<i>Groenlandia densa</i>	CPASI, RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU, LNRS		Typical of shallow nutrient-poor calcareous waters. Mostly found in fen drains. Look for in surveys
	Pepper-saxifrage	<i>Silaum silaus</i>	CPASI, LNRS		Strong indicator of old species-rich grassland, especially damp grassland. Many populations are small and so are under threat from a lack of appropriate management and potentially development where sites are not protected. Look for in surveys
	Tasteless Water-pepper	<i>Persicaria mitis</i>	CPASI, NS, RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU, LNRS		Found in the Ouse and Nene Washes and only found in a few sites outside of these and has been lost from some locations. Found in wet places in open vegetation, typically on nutrient-rich mud and peat that is exposed by a rapid 'drawdown' of water in the summer. Look out for in Ouse washes IDBs
	Tubular Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		Found in areas with winter flooding, including flood meadows and ponds. Look for around Nene and Ouse Washes IDBs
	Water-violet	<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	CPASI, RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU, LNRS		Found in still, shallow, base-rich, clear and not eutrophic waterbodies so it is a positive indicator. Found in fenland drains, although has declined here. Look for in surveys
	Common Meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	CPASI		
	Common Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	CPASI, RLENG.Lr(NT)		
	Dwarf Spurge	<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	CPASI, RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU		

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

Flowering Plant	Fine-leaved Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe aquatica</i>	CPASI	Yes. Maintain a programme of rotational bank cutting and desilting little and often to support aquatic, marginal and terrestrial plants. Where found, and/or diversity is high, identify the historic management regime and maintain it as closely as possible to retain valuable species or make informed improvements to regime to enhance the stand. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
	Flat-stalked Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>	CPASI, NS, RLENG.VU, RLGB.Lr(NT)		
	Fringed Water-lily	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	CPASI, NS		
	Galingale	<i>Cyperus longus</i>	NS, RLENG.Lr(NT), RLGB.Lr(NT)		
	Greater Dodder	<i>Cuscuta europaea</i>	CPASI, NS		
	Hairlike Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	CPASI		
	Long-stalked Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>	RLENG.EN, RLGB.Lr(NT)		
	Marsh Dock	<i>Rumex palustris</i>	CPASI		
	Marsh Pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	CPASI, RLENG.Lr(NT)		
	Marsh Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea aquatica</i>	CPASI, RLENG.Lr(NT)		
	Marsh Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus palustris</i>	CPASI, NS		
	Narrow-leaved Water-plantain	<i>Alisma lanceolatum</i>	CPASI		
	River Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe fluvialis</i>	CPASI		
	Round-fruited Rush	<i>Juncus compressus</i>	RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU		
	Shining Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton lucens</i>	CPASI		
	Slender Spike-rush	<i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>	CPASI		
	Small Water-pepper	<i>Persicaria minor</i>	RLGB.VU		
	Sneezewort	<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	CPASI		
	Strawberry Clover	<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	CPASI, RLENG.VU, RLGB.VU		
	Treacle-mustard	<i>Erysimum cheiranthoides</i>	RLENG.Lr(NT)		
	Tufted-sedge	<i>Carex elata</i>	CPASI, RLENG.Lr(NT)		
	Whorled Water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	CPASI, RLENG.Lr(NT), RLGB.VU		

Insect - Beetle	Bagous tempestivus	<i>Bagous tempestivus</i>	Nb	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult	
-----------------	--------------------	---------------------------	----	---	--

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

	Gymnetron villosulum	<i>Gymnetron villosulum</i>	Nb	stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
	Hydronomus alismatis	<i>Hydronomus alismatis</i>	Nb		
	Musk Beetle	<i>Aromia moschata</i>	Nb		
	Pelenomus commari	<i>Pelenomus commari</i>	Nb		
	Tournotaris bimaculata	<i>Tournotaris bimaculata</i>	Nb		
	Withy Weevil	<i>Cryptorhynchus lapathi</i>	Nb		
		<i>Tanymericus palliatus</i>	NotableB		
		<i>Bembidion fumigatum</i>	NationallyScarce		
		<i>Blethisa multipunctata</i>	NationallyScarce		
		<i>Enochrus halophilus</i>	NationallyScarce		
	Smaller Noterus	<i>Noterus crassicornis</i>	NationallyScarce		
		<i>Pterostichus anthracinus</i>	NationallyScarce		
		<i>Pterostichus gracilis</i>	NationallyScarce		
Insect - Bee	Large Garden Bumblebee	<i>Bombus rudratus</i>	UKBAP; S41,NotableB	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
Insect - Butterfly	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP		

Insect - Cricket	Great Green Bush-cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	CPASI, LNRS	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward	Populations with sustainable numbers may only be present in less than five sites in Cambs. and Pboro. Found in rough grassland with some
------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------	---	--

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

				possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	scrub or on woodland edges. Look for in surveys near Nene and Ouse washes and WWF
Insect - Dragonfly	Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isoceles</i>	RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
	Scarce Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)		
	Variable Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)		
Insect - Grasshopper	Common Green Grasshopper	<i>Omocestus viridulus</i>	CPASI	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
Insect - Moth	White-spotted Pinion	<i>Cosmia diffinis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	Caterpillar feeds on elms. Disappearing from almost all its range except Cambs., which now comprises over three-quarters of its current British range.
	Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Black Gelechia	<i>Gelechia nigra</i>	Nb		Assoc with poplar trees
	Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Brown-spot Pinion	<i>Anchoscelis litura</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Bulrush Veneer	<i>Calamotropha paludella</i>	Nb		
	Centre-barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia centrargo</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Comfrey Ermine	<i>Ethmia quadrillella</i>	Na		Strongly Assoc with wetlands and wetland plants
	Crescent	<i>Helotropha leucostigma</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Dark Spinach	<i>Pelurga comitata</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

Insect - Moth	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
	Deep-brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Ear Moth	<i>Amphipoea oculatea</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Found in wetlands / fen
	Garden Dart	<i>Euxoa nigricans</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Open damp grassland species
	Giant Water-veneer	<i>Schoenobius gigantella</i>	Nb		
	Goat Moth	<i>Cossus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Green-brindled Crescent	<i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Hedge Rustic	<i>Tholera cespitis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Knot Grass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Large Nutmeg	<i>Apamea anceps</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Large Wainscot	<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Oak Hook-tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Damp, grassy, and marshy habitats.
	Rosy Rustic	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Sallow	<i>Cirrhia icteritia</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Assoc with ditches and streams
	Shaded Broad-bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
Insect - Moth	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania comma</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult	

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

	Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
	Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		Assoc. with willowherb so river banks
	Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Sulphur Pearl	<i>Sitochroa palealis</i>	N		
	White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP		
	Minor Shoulder-knot	<i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	UKBAP; S41		
Insect - True Bug		<i>Agnocoris reclairei</i>	NotableB	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
		<i>Drymus (Drymus) latus</i>	NotableB		
		<i>Ceratocombus (Ceratocombus) coleopratus</i>	NationallyScarce		
		<i>Salda littoralis</i>	NationallyScarce		
Insect - True fly	Neoascia geniculata	<i>Neoascia geniculata</i>	N	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
	Pherbellia nana	<i>Pherbellia nana</i>	N		
	Platypalpus praecinctus	<i>Pherbellia nana</i>	NS		
Reptile	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5, LNRS	Yes. Manage channels according to the SOP. Retain & create suitable habitat. Record sightings.	
	Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5		
Stonewort	Great Tassel Stonewort	<i>Tolypella prolifera</i>	RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS	Yes. Maintain a programme of rotational bank cutting and desilting little and often to support aquatic, marginal and terrestrial plants. Where found, and/or diversity is high, identify the historic management regime and maintain it as closely as possible to retain valuable species or make informed improvements to regime to enhance the stand. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	Found in small alkaline water bodies which prefers slow-moving water and tends to grow in deeper water. A spring or summer annual and often occurs in quantity after ditch clearances.
	Tassel Stonewort	<i>Tolypella intricata</i>	RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		
Terrestrial Mammal	Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	UKBAP; S41, LNRS	Yes. More associated with mosaic habitats but IDBs must be mindful not to disturb scrub patches / weed screen piles / leaf piles after October as they may be hibernating. Fund hedgehog hotels, encourage leaf piles and don't keep things "tidy". Record sightings.	More associated with mosaic habitats but IDBs must be mindful not to disturb scrub patches / weed screen piles / leaves after October as they may be hibernating. Fund hedgehog hotels, encourage leaf piles and don't keep things "tidy".

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

	Otter	<i>Lutra</i>	HabRegs2, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5	Yes. Manage channels according to the SOP. Retain & create suitable habitat. Record sightings and field signs.	
	Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5, LNRS	Yes. Manage ditches according to the SOPs to ensure no burrows are damaged and marginal vegetation is maintained for optimal ww habitat. Manage bank face vegetation rotationally to maintain/develop a favourable & diverse sward as optimal habitat for ww. Continue support for mink control project. Record in surveys.	IDB ditches are stronghold for them. Ensure water levels of at least 30cm are maintained all year round, keeping summer/winter level fluctuations as small as possible. Retain marginal vegetation for refuge. Fund and support mink trapping.
	Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS	Yes. Retain areas of uncut undisturbed marginal and bank vegetation for refuge and foraging and manage rotationally.	GB Red List Near Threatened. Thought to have declined significantly due to agricultural intensification. Not commonly recorded in Cambs. and Pboro so population levels are unknown.
	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	Yes. Retain areas of uncut undisturbed marginal and bank vegetation for refuge and foraging and manage rotationally.	
Terrestrial Mammal - Bat	Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	HabRegs2, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5	Yes. Retain mature bank-side trees to provide suitable roosts for bats. Trim or pollard trees rather than remove them. Install bat boxes on bank-side trees or elsewhere in the district to improve roost provision. Provide bat boxes	
	Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	HabRegs2, WCA5		
	Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	HabRegs2, WCA5		Assoc. with water
	Nathusius's Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	HabRegs2, RLGB.Lr(NT), WCA5		
	Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	HabRegs2, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5		
	Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	HabRegs2, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5		
	Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	HabsRegs2; WCA5, UKBAP; S41, LNRS		Thought to prefer pastoral landscapes with a mixture of deciduous woodland and other habitats. Roost mainly in cracks in trees.
	Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	HabsRegs2; WCA5		
	Leisler's Bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	HabsRegs2; WCA5		

5.11.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategy Species

In addition to the species already recorded in the District, there are a number of species identified by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

Cambridgeshire & Norfolk that are a priority for nature conservation within the counties. Some of these species are commonly associated with the habitats that the Board manages. While there are no known recent records of these species being present within the district, there is potential for them to be found, or for them to colonise, either naturally or via translocation if the habitats they prefer are managed favourably. There is therefore potential for the conservation status of these species across the counties to be influenced by the activities of the Board.

Table : Species identified by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Cambridgeshire & Norfolk as being a conservation priority across the counties:

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Potential for IDBs to Influence	Species Info
Amphibian	Pool Frog	<i>Pelophylax lessonae</i>	WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b	Low. Create ponds where possible	<i>Ponds specific</i>
Birds	Snipe	<i>Gallinago</i>	UK Amber List, LNRS	Yes. Look for opportunities to create / restore reedbeds and wetland habitats	<i>Requiring wet grassland / water meadow. IDBs Look for opportunities to restore / create reedbeds & wet grasslands and/or support conservation efforts within the district.</i>
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	BirdsDir-A1	Consider tern rafts	<i>Assoc with coastal and inland waterways. Summer visitor.</i>
	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	BirdsDir-A2.1	Yes. Retain dense mature scrub stands i.e. bramble near water and manage extent rather than remove. Retain bankside trees and pollard rather than remove. Retain marginal and bank vegetation as much as possible and cut banks rotationally outside of bird nesting season. Trim hedges outside bird nesting season. Encourage farmers to establish stewardship margins alongside hedgerows and ditches for foraging. Record sightings.	<i>Ground nesting assoc with lakes and rivers/drains</i>
	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris</i>	Bird-Red		<i>Favours arable habitat</i>
	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Bird-Red		<i>Assoc with buildings for nesting but may forage along drains and margins</i>
	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	W(NI)O-Sch1_part1		<i>Assoc with woodland edges, hedgerows, riverbanks and margins. Preys on small mammals</i>
	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i> subsp. <i>palustris/dresseri</i>	Bird-Red		<i>Nests in mature tree cavities</i>
	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	BirdsDir-A2.2		<i>Ground nesting assoc with lakes and rivers/drains</i>
	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	BirdsDir-A2.2		<i>Assoc with coastal and estuary but frequently inland. Ground nesters</i>
	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	WACA-Sch1_part1		<i>Assoc with thorn scrub across a range of habitats. Prey on small mammals</i>
	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	BirdsDir-A2.2		
	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Bird_RedList_GB_post2001-LC_Breeding		<i>Assoc with buildings for nesting but may forage along drains and margins</i>

Fish	Brook lamprey	<i>Lampetra planeri</i>	RLGB NT, SFWF, HabsRegs, LNRS	Yes. Desilt little and often to provide diversity of substrate for the filter-feeders. Look for presence during surveys.	<i>A positive indicator for rivers and streams. It tends to be observed in the headwaters of smaller waterbodies (but may be present in the middle reaches of rivers). Larval form requires unpolluted and stable silt beds, thus if a river supports brook lamprey it could be considered as one that is</i>
------	---------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------	--	---

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

					<i>in a better ecological condition and is exhibiting stability and naturalness of the river environment.</i>
	Spined Loach	<i>Cobitis taenia</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS		<i>Appears to be restricted to Trent, Welland, Witham, Nene and Great Ouse, with their associated waterways. Moreton's Leam is thought to contain the highest recorded density of spined loach in the UK and is designated an SAC for this reason, as are Ouse Washes Counter Drain and Old Bedford River. Have been found on occasion in the Middle Level system.</i>
	Burbot	<i>Lota</i>	WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c		<i>Historically assoc with fenland waterways subject to reintroductions in the Great Ouse catchment</i>
Flowering Plant	Cambridge Milk-parsley	<i>Selinum carvifolia</i>	RENG.EN, RLGB.EN, WCA8, LNRS	Yes. Maintain a programme of rotational bank cutting and desilting little and often to support aquatic, marginal and terrestrial plants. Where found, and/or diversity is high, identify the historic management regime and maintain it as closely as possible to retain valuable species or make informed improvements to regime to enhance the stand. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	<i>Known to be present in an IDB drain near Ramsey</i>
	Dyer's Greenweed	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	CPASI, RENG.VU, LNRS		<i>Good indicator of old permanent grassland of interest (including verges), particularly in the clay areas of Cambs and Pboro. Number of sites in Cambs have been declining in recent decades and it is still under threat as many populations are small. Pboro IDBs</i>
	Fen Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton coloratus</i>	CPASI, NS, LNRS		<i>Fenland is the British stronghold. Shallow calcareous water. Most records in the Wicken and Whittlesey areas. Wetland habitats such as ponds and drains. All IDB surveys</i>
	Greater Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i> agg.	RENG.LC, RLGB.LC., LNRS		<i>Good indicator of high-quality wetland habitats as it is susceptible to eutrophication. At risk where populations are small. Look for in surveys</i>
	Heath Dog-violet	<i>Viola canina</i> subsp. <i>ruppii</i>	RLGB EN. RENG EN., LNRS		<i>In Woodwalton Fen, Holme fen & RUGR IDB only.</i>
	Long-stalked Yellow-sedge	<i>Carex lepidocarpa</i>	RLGB LC. RENG LC. , LNRS		<i>Strong indicator of high-quality wet fen meadow habitats. Likely less than ten sites in Cambs and Pboro where it still occurs, at some of those in small numbers. Look for in surveys</i>
	Meadow Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC		<i>Occasionally found on banks or in floodplains, indicator of good quality unimproved grasslands</i>
	Meadow Thistle	<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>	CPASI, LNRS		<i>Strong indicator of high-quality wet fen meadow habitats. Perhaps less than five sites in Cambs and Pboro where it still occurs. Look for in IDB surveys</i>
	Milk Parsley	<i>Thysselinum palustre</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-VU		
	Bog Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia tenella</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-LC		
	Common Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-VU		
	Common Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-VU		
Flowering Plant	Deptford Pink	<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	WACA-Sch8	Yes. Maintain a programme of rotational bank cutting and	<i>Prefers unimproved margins; recorded in Sawtry (Monk's Wood) 2000-2019</i>

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

	Early Marsh-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC	desilting little and often to support aquatic, marginal and terrestrial plants. Where found, and/or diversity is high, identify the historic management regime and maintain it as closely as possible to retain valuable species or make informed improvements to regime to enhance the stand. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
	Early Marsh-orchid (cream-flowered)	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC		
	English Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum anglicum</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-VU		
	Fen Orchid	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	Bern-A1		
	Fen Violet	<i>Viola stagnina</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-CR		
	Fen Wood-rush	<i>Luzula pallescens</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-CR		Found in Holme Fen, Needs ground disturbance
	Fibrous Tussock-sedge	<i>Carex appropinquata</i>	NS-excludes		
	Flat-sedge	<i>Blysmus compressus</i>	Scottish_Biodiversity_List		
	Fly Orchid	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	England_NERC_S.41		
	Grass-poly	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	WACA-Sch8		
	Great Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	NI_Priority		Characteristic flood meadow and positive old grassland indicator species (although can be found in woodland). Associated with sites of natural history interest & has declined significantly. Many populations are small and so are under threat from destruction or neglect.
	Hampshire Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum akteum</i>	NR-excludes		
	Least lettuce	<i>Lactuca saligna</i>	WACA-Sch8		Formerly common on river and ditch banks in East Anglia
	Marsh Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum palustre</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-VU		
	Marsh Helleborine	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	W(NI)O-Sch8_part1		
	Marsh Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-VU		
	Marsh Valerian	<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-NT		
	Oxlip	<i>Primula elatior</i>	NS-excludes		
	Ribbon-leaved water-plantain	<i>Alisma gramineum</i>	WACA-Sch8		Fenland drain/ditch specialist
	Saw-wort	<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC		Strong indicator of a range of old species-rich habitats, including grassland and woodland edges. At the eastern edge of its range in Cambs and at many sites numbers are small so populations under threat. Now may only be present at less than ten sites in Cambs and Pboro.
	Slender Tare	<i>Ervum gracile</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-VU		
	Small-flowered catchfly	<i>Silene gallica</i>	NS-excludes		Annual herb of cultivated and disturbed ground, mainly arable
Flowering Plant	Twayblade	<i>Neottia ovata</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-LC		Tolerant of a wide range of habitats including hedgerow, fen, wasteland and scrub

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

	Water Germander	<i>Teucrium scordium</i>	WACA-Sch8		
Insect	Drab Wood-soldierfly	<i>Solva marginata</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-LC	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	Assoc with riverside trees esp. willow/poplar
Insect - Beetle	Agabus undulatus	<i>Agabus undulatus</i>	CPASI, RLGB.Lr(NT), LNRS	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	Most often found in fenland drains. Suitable flagship species for improved drain management as it is a distinctive species that is relatively recognisable Look out for in surveys
	Donacia dentata	<i>Donacia dentata</i>	RLGB.VU, LNRS		Very few known sites in Cambs and Pboro. Found in larger drains and rivers and feeds mainly on Arrowhead, <i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i> . Relatively large and identifiable. Look out for in surveys
	Eyed Longhorn beetle	<i>Oberea oculata</i>	NR-includes		
	Mud Beetle	<i>Sphaerius acaroides</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-EN		
	Zircon reed beetle	<i>Donacia aquatica</i>	NI_Priority		Favours sedge dominated marginal habitat
Insect - Butterfly	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP, LNRS	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	Active management is needed to maintain suitable habitat where the suitable food plants grow (such as Creeping Cinquefoil, Agrimony and Wild Strawberry). Relatively open, patchy grassland seems to be preferred where there is some periodic disturbance. This includes land by railway lines and brownfield sites.
	Black Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium pruni</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-EN		
	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>	WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a		
	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b		
Insect - Caddis Fly (Trichoptera)	Erotesis baltica	<i>Erotesis baltica</i>	NR-includes	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub	

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

				and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
Insect - Moth	Four-spotted	<i>Tyta luctuosa</i>	Nationally Scarce. UKBAP, LNRS	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	Food plant is field bindweed so dependent on early successional habitats which are threatened by inappropriate management and eutrophication. May be more widespread and common than previously thought but more surveys are required to establish this.
	Marsh Carpet	<i>Gagitodes sagittata</i>	RLEN EN., LNRS		Present south of Benwick and Doddington & west of Coates.
	Reed Leopard	<i>Phragmataecia castaneae</i>	RLGB VU. UKBAP, LNRS		Long-standing populations known only at Wicken Fen and Chippenham Fen but recorded from a few other sites in this area of the county. The larval food plant is common reed.
	Scarce vapourer	<i>Orgyia recens</i>	RedList_GB_Pre94-VU		Assoc with hawthorn/sallow in eastern England
	Silver Barred	<i>Deltote bankiana</i>	RedList_GB_Pre94-VU		Restricted distribution nationally. Species of fens, coastal marshes and bogs. Long-standing populations known only at Wicken Fen and Chippenham Fen in Cambs and Pboro.
Insect - Orthopteran	Large Marsh Grasshopper	<i>Stethophyma grossum</i>	England_NERC_S.41	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	
Insect - Spider	Rosser's Sac-spider	<i>Clubiona rosserae</i>	NL, LNRS	Yes. Invertebrates use a wide range of plants as hosts for their larval stage and for feeding and egg laying in their adult stages. Aim to create and maintain the most diverse sward possible on banks, channel margins and in channel to support them by following a rotational vegetation management regime. Retain trees, hedgerows and scrub and plant more where possible. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	Only found in 1-2 sites in Britain, with recent records only at Chippenham Fen. Found in fens amongst cut sedge and reeds and in sedge tussocks.
	Pardosa paludicola	<i>Pardosa paludicola</i>	NR-includes		
	Wolf spider	<i>Hygrolycosa rubrofasciata</i>	NR-includes		Favours damp ground level habitat; fen marsh damp woodland
	Zora armillata	<i>Zora armillata</i>	NR-includes		
Reptile	Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a	Yes. Manage channels according to the SOP. Retain & create suitable habitat. Record sightings.	
Mollusc	Large-mouthed Valve Snail	<i>Valvata macrostoma</i>	RLGB LC. RLENG ? , LNRS	Limited. Look for presence during surveys.	Look for in surveys
	Taylor's Spire Snail	<i>Marstoniopsis insubrica</i>	RLUK Rare, LNRS		IDBs along the Ouse washes
	Witham Orb Mussel	<i>Sphaerium solidum</i>	NL, LNRS		IDBs along the Ouse washes

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

	Depressed river mussel	<i>Pseudanodonta complanata</i>	RedList_Global_post 2001-VU		Strictly assoc with large running water habitats
	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail	<i>Vertigo (Vertigo) moulinsiana</i>	HabDir-A2*		
Stonewort	Hedgehog Stonewort	<i>Chara aculeolata</i>	RLGB VU, UKBAP, NR, LNRS	Yes. Maintain a programme of rotational bank cutting and desilting little and often to support aquatic, marginal and terrestrial plants. Where found, and/or diversity is high, identify the historic management regime and maintain it as closely as possible to retain valuable species or make informed improvements to regime to enhance the stand. Look for in surveys, record presence & inform LERC.	Only in some of the old Pboro brick pit sites in Cambs and Pboro. A freshwater species tolerant of slightly brackish water.
	Bearded Stonewort	<i>Chara canescens</i>	WACA-Sch8		
	Dwarf Stonewort	<i>Nitella tenuissima</i>	RedList_GB_post2001-EN		
Terrestrial Mammal - Bats	Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	CMS_EUROBATS-A1	Yes. Retain mature bank-side trees to provide suitable roosts for bats. Trim or pollard trees rather than remove them. Install bat boxes on bank-side trees or elsewhere in the district to improve roost provision. Provide bat boxes	
Tree	Dark-leaved Willow	<i>Salix myrsinifolia</i>	RLNG.LC, RLGB.LC., LNRS	Yes. Look for planting opportunities. Identify those existing and conserve.	Cambs holds the majority of the of the remaining southern / eastern England (likely) native sites for the species (less than five sites). Found in wet riverside woodland and fens.
	Black-poplar	<i>Populus nigra subsp. betulifolia</i>	CPASI, LNRS	Yes. Look for planting opportunities. Identify those existing and conserve.	One of the rarest native trees in Cambs and Pboro. Under threat because of a lack of natural reproduction opportunities. Most trees present now are thought to have been planted but maybe not all. Natural habitat is river floodplains. Look for planting opportunities
	Elm (various)	<i>Ulmus spp.</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC	Yes. Map droves across district. Identify those left and conserve.	Now rare due to Dutch elm so those left must be identified and conserved
	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC	Yes. Look for planting opportunities. Identify those existing and conserve.	Common in hedgerows and scrub and planted on amenity land
	Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC		Ubiquitous species tolerant of waterlogging and may be growing along ditches and adjacent woodland
	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC		Widely planted tree may be growing alongside ditches/drains
	Small leaved lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC		Widely planted tree may be growing alongside ditches/drains
	Sweet chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	RedList_ENG_post2001-LC		Present in the Middle Level; may be planted in hedgerows

5.12. Invasive Non-native Species Summary

The IDB has identified the following aquatic and riparian invasive non-native species within or adjacent to the drainage district that are identified as likely to be influenced by, or impact upon the Board's activities. Some INNS species records have been excluded as they are not considered to be any greater detriment

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

to the habitats managed by IDBs than some similar native species, and they are common throughout the district and Middle Level area so would be very difficult to control and/or eradicate. Only the most recent record from each specific location has been included and significantly mobile species have only been included once even if they have been recorded at different locations.

Table 7: Aquatic & riparian invasive non-native species summary

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Grid Ref	Date	Management Recommendations
Bird	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Welney	TL5494	18/01/2014	Observe stringent biosecurity procedures to prevent spread. Familiarise with species recognition. Encourage all IDB networks to recognise and report sightings of the species to the board ecologist straight away so it can be managed swiftly.
Fern	Water Fern	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Ouse Washes (Pymoor)	TL499896	24/09/2011	
Fern	Water Fern	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Ouse Washes (Welches Dam)	TL470858	30/07/2012	
Fern	Water Fern	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Ouse Washes (Sutton)	TL404764	11/09/2012	
Flowering Plant	Canadian Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Ouse Washes (Mepal)	TL4482	26/05/2018	
Flowering Plant	Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Coveney Byall Fen	TL4885	23/04/2016	
Flowering Plant	Least Duckweed	<i>Lemna minuta</i>	Haddenham	TL3974	15/05/2011	
Flowering Plant	Least Duckweed	<i>Lemna minuta</i>	Oxlode Lakes, Pymoor	TL4886	10/08/2013	
Flowering Plant	Nuttall's Waterweed	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	Ouse Washes (Sutton)	TL4280	08/08/2002	
Flowering Plant	Nuttall's Waterweed	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	Ouse Fen Reserve	TL3874	22/10/2011	
Flowering Plant	Nuttall's Waterweed	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	Ouse Washes (RSPB)	TL4785	05/11/2011	
Flowering Plant	Nuttall's Waterweed	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	New Bedford River, Sutton	TL4177	03/08/2013	
Flowering Plant	Nuttall's Waterweed	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	New Bedford River, Mepal	TL4481	04/08/2013	
Flowering Plant	Nuttall's Waterweed	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	Sutton (Camps)	TL3976	17/08/2016	
Flowering Plant	Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron</i>	Welney	TL5395	14/10/2000	
Terrestrial Mammal	American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Welney Wildfowl Trust Reserve	TL5495	15/08/2005	
Terrestrial Mammal	American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Great Ouse	TL5394	Apr-17	
Terrestrial Mammal	American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Old Bedford River, Sutton Gault	TL42577984	12/04/2020	

5.13. Water Level Management Plans

The district sits entirely within the Ouse washes, a designated nature conservation site. The Ouse washes Water Level Management Plan (WLMP) was updated in April 2025 (see Appendix II).

As set out above, there are range of qualifying features within the Ouse Washes including birds, grasslands, fish, invertebrate and aquatic plant assemblages. A significant proportion of those features are in a declining or unfavourable condition due to a range of factors, but predominantly from deep water inundation in winter creating unfavourable conditions for wading birds, flooding during the bird nesting season affecting ground-nesters, and poor water quality, both from pollutants and from low dissolved oxygen levels stemming from lack of flows.

The most recent WLMP identifies and breaks down these pressures on each designated feature, makes recommendations for how each unfavourable situation could be improved and who is responsible for leading that improvement, with supporting partners in some cases.

It is important to note that the IDB has very little direct control or influence over the prime contributing factors to the sites' unfavourable condition. They are not able to control or influence when the washes are flooded and are unable to control the quality of the water that they "let in" to the system or that overtops into their system. The overall water levels on the washes, particularly in winter, are determined by upper catchment rainfall. The IDBs contribution, aside from managing water levels within the internal "header drain" when they are able to, is mainly confined to their support of other stakeholders and partners who are more able to control and influence these factors. The definition of this support is included in the following habitat & species action plans.

The RSPB and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) are the major landowners within the district and take on the role / provide resources for the management and operation of the water level control structures within the IDB "header drain" as well as their own private channels within the district.

6. Habitat and Species Action Plans

6.1. Introduction

The following sections detail the objectives that the IDB has defined for the habitats and species that have been identified as a priority in the biodiversity audit, and that have the most potential to be influenced by the Boards activities, and the associated actions that will help to deliver each objective.

6.2. Habitat Action Plans

6.2.1 IDB Ditches

6.2.1.1 IDB Ditch Objectives:

1. *Develop and regularly review an Operations Manual to help to define the most favourable channel maintenance approaches for flood risk management and biodiversity, on a reach-by-reach basis.*
2. *Maximise the biodiversity value of IDB channels, banks and margins through sensitive management, designed to support a wide range of species.*
3. *Enhance channel biodiversity via non-routine works where opportunities arise*

6.2.1.2 IDB Ditch Actions

Objective ref.	Action no.	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	Determine the routine vegetation maintenance intensity and approach for each reach, based on risk management and conservation objectives, and document reasoning.	• Map with planned veg management approach defined for each reach for full rotation & supporting table with reasoning	2026 then annually	IDB	Ecologist
			• Documented confirmation that works were carried out in line with plan for each reach each year and if not, reasons why.	2026 then annually	IDB	Contractor
		Favour the retention and rotational management of marginal and bank vegetation wherever possible.	• Minuted review of any changes to previous approach/reasoning and approval of plan ahead of works at Board Meeting	2026 then annually	IDB	Ecologist
	1b		• Map with desilting approach defined for each reach for full rotation & supporting table with reasoning	2026 then annually	IDB	Ecologist

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

		Determine the routine desilting intensity and approach for each reach, based on risk management and conservation objectives, and document reasoning.	Documented confirmation that works were carried out in line with plan for each reach and if not, reasons why.	2026 then annually	IDB	Contractor
		Aim for regular and light desilting on a 3-year rotation approx. to mimic natural scour in periodic high flows.	Minuted review of any changes to previous approach and approval of plan ahead of works at Board Meeting	2026 then annually	IDB	Ecologist
2	2a	Undertake routine channel maintenance in line with standard operating procedures (SOPs), best practice and in compliance with a range of environmental law.	Spot checks during and after routine maintenance for SOP compliance	Annually	Ecologist	
			Minuted report to the Board of compliance non/compliance for maintenance undertaken	Annually	Ecologist	
	2b	Survey a different sample reach of channel each year to benchmark biodiversity. Aim to identify areas of high biodiversity value and which areas could benefit from enhancement. Also aim to identify any correlation between diversity, habitat quality and management approaches.	Channel survey results and recommendations included in Board papers with summary review each year.	2026 then annually	Ecologist	IDB
			Results of surveys submitted to LERC			
3	3a	Ensure all non-routine channel works are assessed for environmental and ecological constraints and opportunities in advance of works. Identify and design-in opportunities to enhance channels using natural engineering approaches i.e. vegetated coir roll for bank toe stabilisation, hydroseeding, plug-planting, vegetated berms, laying back the banks and diverse seed mixes.	- Minuted review of planned non-routine works and ecol. assessment requirements for forthcoming year at each Board Meeting. - Extent of habitat enhanced as a result of non-routine works reported annually in Board papers	2026 then Annually	IDB	Ecologist

6.2.2 Wet Grasslands (Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh (CFPGM) & Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland (GQSIG) and Lowland Fen)

6.2.2.1 Wet Grassland Objectives

1. Retain, improve and increase the extent of priority grasslands in favourable condition within the District by primarily assisting with maintaining pre-defined favourable water levels, and also encouraging and supporting private landowners to retain and manage existing grassland habitat favourably

6.2.2.2 Wet Grassland Actions

Objective ref.	Action no.	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	In order to contribute towards the ideal water level management of 0.2-0.3m below soil level from April to July as per the WLMP objective 1.1 and the 0.1 to 0.3m depth of water covering no more than 80% of the washes during the winter as per the WLMP objective 4, And to satisfy the recommendations in objective 5 in the WLMP: Work with stakeholders to define/redefine/regularly review the operating procedure that identifies: • Where levels are taken, by whom and how often • Procedure for requesting top-ups into the header drain • Who is responsible for operating and maintaining the relevant control structures to let in/close off water from the IDB header drain	• Ops procedure available for review each year • Current list available of operatives and control structures and who is responsible for the control and maintenance of each structure	2026	ALL	ALL
	1b	Work with stakeholders and support their efforts to define and progress suitable alternative habitat creation and flood storage areas to compensate for loss of habitat and impact on species, particularly wet grassland plant assemblages, during extensive winter and summer flooding as per the WLMP objective 1.2 and 4.4 and 4.5	• No. of projects / study meetings attended by the IDB each year for alternative flood area / habitat creation	Annually	IDB	IDB
	1c	Identify if any IDB routine ditch management approaches can be adapted on a reach-by-reach basis to compliment and/or enhance the grassland assemblages	• Map of channel management approaches on a reach by reach basis and supporting table with reasoning	2026	IDB / Ecologist	RSPB, WWT, Private Landowners

6.2.3 Ponds (pools, shallows, splashes, scrapes & other areas of inundation)

6.2.3.1 Ponds Objectives

1. *Maintain favourable water levels within privately owned ponds by working with landowners to identify optimum levels and how the IDB can help to support those levels*

Objective ref.	Action no.	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	Work with stakeholders to identify important pools, ponds, shallows and splashes and other areas of required inundation	Log of ponds available, with ownership and optimum levels detailed	2026	ALL	EA, RSPB, WWT, Private Landowners
	1b	Work with stakeholders to identify and document a maintenance plan which details the action required by the IDB to help to maintain the ponds favourably and any improvements that need to be made, with IDB assistance, to enable a favourable status for each pond as is required by the WLMP (page 43)	- Maintenance (water level management) procedure available for regular review - List available of improvements required awaiting funding	2027	ALL	EA, RSPB, WWT, Private Landowners

6.2.4 Reedbeds

6.2.4.1 Reedbeds Objectives

1. *Retain, enhance and increase the extent of reedbeds within the District by encouraging and supporting private landowners to do so, and creating or supporting the creation of new reedbeds where possible and appropriate in and around IDB channels.*

6.2.4.2 Reedbeds Actions

Objective ref.	Action no.	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	Work with existing reedbed owners / managers adjacent to IDB watercourses to identify if the IDB can do anything to support the favourable management / conservation status of the habitat.	No. of reedbed owners / managers contacted & management plans reviewed	2027	IDB	Ecologist / Landowners
	1b	Audit the extent and condition of reedbeds at the start and end of the BAP period	Extent of reedbed in the district calculated	2026-31	Ecologist	IDB

6.3. Species Action Plans

6.3.1 Notes on species without specific actions

Some species have not been detailed specifically in this section, because actions to provide more and better quality habitat for them are delivered via other actions, mainly habitat and procedural actions. Such species include a range of flora and invertebrates that will be better supported via standard operating procedures (SOPS) for ditches, which aim to retain marginal and bank-side vegetation and manage it rotationally and compliment and buffer adjacent habitats. Also, annual ditch surveys aim to identify, record, report and protect many priority and protected plant and animal species. SOPs and best practice IDB habitat management will also optimize opportunities for reptiles, many birds, invertebrates, other mammals, eels and fish as well as support better water quality.

6.3.2 Birds

6.3.2.1 Birds Objectives:

1. *Maximise habitat availability and quality for all birds that use IDB channels and margins for foraging and nesting, through sensitive routine channel maintenance activities*
2. *Improve opportunities for particular priority birds within the IDB District that could be impacted by IDB activities, with specific provisions*
3. *Improve understanding of bird population trends in District by recording and reporting bird sightings, particularly for priority birds*
4. *Protect and enhance bird habitats through non-routine works*

6.3.2.2 Birds Actions

Objective ref.	Action no.	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	Adopt standard operating procedures (SOPs) for routine maintenance activities, in line with legislation and best practice, that consider birds, including: - Retention and rotational management of marginal vegetation fringes - Bank-side tree and scrub retention and management, - Rotational bank vegetation cutting - Scheduling work outside the nesting season i.e. mid-August onwards	- Adopted SOPs which consider birds covering the following, available on website: ~ Channel vegetation management, ~ Bank vegetation management inc. trees and scrub, ~ Desilting, ~ Herbicide use	2026	IDB	Ecologist
2	2a	Map, retain, protect and increase bank-side trees for KINGFISHERS as fishing perches wherever possible, favouring trimming for access and conveyance rather than removal.	Important Kingfisher fishing areas mapped & made available to works operatives	2027	Ecologist / IDB	Landowners, Community

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

			No. of important Kingfisher areas equal or greater at end of BAP period	2031	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners, Community
	2b	Map, retain, manage, protect and create KINGFISHER nesting sites along IDB watercourses	Kingfisher nest sites mapped & made available to works operatives	2027	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners, Community
2	2c	Install on IDB assets, or encourage the installation of SWIFT NEST BOXES on private and community assets near IDB channels by funding nest boxes and providing installation assistance where necessary	Promotion of swift nest box installation and provision via website, community news and rate demands	2028	IDB	Ecologist
			Number of swift boxes installed and map of them	Ongoing	IDB	Ecologist, Community, Landowners
3	3a	Encourage and support bird SURVEYS . RECORD AND REPORT SIGHTINGS of birds, particularly priority birds, and encourage others via IDB networks to do the same and importantly, submit sightings to the LERC	Number of bird records submitted to the LERC for the IDB area by the IDB operatives each year	Annually	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners
			Mapped/reported sightings across the IDB District published with Board report	Annually	IDB	Ecologist
4	4a	Using the Environmental Screening Report (ESR) process, ensure all non-routine channel and asset works are assessed for impacts to birds and mitigations and enhancements are designed-in ahead of works, particularly scheduling works outside nesting season. Enhancements could include retaining valuable habitat, artificial nest box provision and using green engineering such as coir roll and enhanced seed mixes or plug planting.	- Minuted review of planned non-routine works and ecol. assessment requirements for forthcoming year at each Board Meeting. - Enhancements that benefit birds as a result of non-routine works reported annually in Board papers	2026 then Annually	IDB	Ecologist

6.3.3 Mammals

6.3.3.1 Mammals Objectives:

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

1. *Maximise habitat availability and quality for all mammals but particularly priority mammals, that use IDB channels and margins for foraging and refuge, through sensitive routine channel maintenance activities*
2. *Improve opportunities for particular priority mammals within the IDB District that could be impacted by IDB activities, with specific provisions*
3. *Improve understanding of mammal population trends in District by recording and reporting sightings, particularly for priority mammals*
4. *Protect and enhance mammal habitats through non-routine works*

6.3.3.2 Mammals Actions

Objective ref.	Action no.	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	Adopt standard operating procedures (SOPs) for routine maintenance activities, in line with legislation and best practice, that consider mammals, including: - Retention and rotational management of marginal vegetation fringes - Bank-side tree and scrub retention and sensitive management, - Rotational bank vegetation cutting - Scheduling work outside sensitive seasons	- Published adopted SOPs available on IDB website which consider WATER VOLES, OTTERS AND BATS at least, covering: ~ Channel vegetation management, ~ Bank vegetation management inc. trees and scrub, ~ Desilting, ~ Herbicide use	2026	Ecologist	IDB
2	2a	Support WATER VOLE conservation through the mink control project	Funding provided to support mink control project	Annually	IDB	Waterlife Recovery Trust
			Number of mink control rafts hosted or funded on IDB watercourses	Annually	IDB	Waterlife Recovery Trust
	2b	Identify and protect known or potential OTTER holts (refuges) and create or support the creation of more along appropriate IDB channels	Known and potential otter holts (refuges) mapped & made available to works operatives	2027	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners
			No of otter holts increasing along IDB channels	Ongoing	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners
			Promotion of otter holt creation and retention amongst IDB networks	2028-2030	IDB	Ecologist
	2c	Identify and protect known and potential BAT roosts (in trees and structures) along or near to IDB watercourses and install or	Known and potential bat roosts in trees and structures mapped & made available to works operatives	2027	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners, Volunteers,

Hundred Foot Washes Internal Drainage Board – Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

		support the installation of bat boxes in appropriate places along or near to IDB channels	No. of bat roost provisions increasing along IDB channels	Annually	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners, Volunteers,
			Promotion of bat roost retention and bat box installation through IDB networks	2027-2031	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners, Volunteers,
3	3a	Encourage and support mammal surveys , particularly priority mammals.	Number of mammal records submitted to the LERC for the IDB area by the IDB operatives each year	Ongoing	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners, Volunteers
		Record and report sightings of mammals, particularly priority mammals, and encourage others via IDB networks to do the same	Mapped/reported sightings across the IDB District published with Board report	Annually	IDB	Ecologist
4	4a	Using the Environmental Screening Report (ESR) process, ensure all non-routine channel and asset works are assessed for impacts to mammals and mitigations and enhancements are designed-in ahead of works, particularly scheduling works outside sensitive seasons. Enhancements could include retaining valuable habitat, creation of artificial refuges and boxes, provision and use of green engineering such as coir roll and enhanced seed mixes.	- Minuted review of planned non-routine works and ecol. assessment requirements for forthcoming year at each Board Meeting. - Enhancements that benefit mammals as a result of non-routine works reported annually in Board papers	Annually	IDB	Ecologist

6.3.4 Trees

6.3.4.1 Trees Objectives:

1. *Identify and protect priority trees, particularly elm, black poplars and dark-leaved willow within the District*
2. *Increase numbers of black poplars*

6.3.4.2 Trees Actions

Objective ref.	Action no.	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	Map and protect priority trees in close proximity to, or that could be influenced by, works to IDB drains	Map of selected trees & made available to works operative	2028	Ecologist / IDB	Landowners
2	2a	Seek and progress opportunities to plant more black poplars particularly, and priority trees in appropriate locations across the IDB district Priority trees include: - Dark-leaved Willow - Black-poplar - Elm (various) - Field Maple - Pedunculate Oak - Rowan - Small leaved lime - Sweet chestnut	Among stakeholder meetings, request opportunities to plant black poplar and other priority tree species via:	At least twice in BAP period	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners, Volunteers,
			No. of black poplar and other priority trees in District equal or greater at end of BAP period	2027-2031	IDB	Ecologist, Landowners, Volunteers,

6.3.5 Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)

6.3.5.1 INNS Objectives:

1. *Minimise the risk of introducing or spreading INNS through IDB activities*
2. *Identify, control and eradicate INNS from the District*

6.3.5.2 INNS Actions:

Objective ref.	Action no.	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	Develop/update, publish and adhere to a biosecurity protocol for IDB activities and as required in Objective 6 in the WLMP. This includes contractors working on behalf of IDBs.	Biosecurity protocol published on-line and made available to IDB operatives & contractors	2026	Ecologist	IDB
2	2a	Encourage and support all IDB networks to: - Improve their recognition of INNS - Report suspected INNS in and around IDB channels promptly - Follow good biosecurity procedures such as check-clean-dry protocols - Signpost further information	- Information published via: ~ Board Report ~ IDB website ~ Rate demands ~ Community communications ~ Information Boards	2027	IDB	Ecologist, Community, Landowners
	2b	Provide support to partners in IDB networks to control existing INNS within the IDB District	No. of INNS control projects supported	Ongoing	IDB	Ecologist, Community, Landowners

7. Procedural Action Plan

7.1. Introduction

A number of procedural actions have been identified and detailed below. These aim to help to underpin all other actions to support and enhance biodiversity via IDB activities.

7.2. Procedural Objectives

1. *Improve IDB representative's and contractor's knowledge and delivery of biodiversity support through training*
2. *Maintain no net loss of trees and hedgerows as a result of IDB activity and consenting*
3. *Contribute to studies and projects that look to progress understanding and improvements in water level management and support of biodiversity across district and surrounding areas*

7.3. Procedural Actions

Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	Ensure all operatives including contractors have received biodiversity training within 6 months from the start date of this Plan, or as part of their induction, and refresher training provided every 3 years.	Numbers of operatives trained and dates	2026 & 29	IDB	Ecologist
2	2a	Develop and publish a “no net loss” policy for trees and hedgerows	Publication of approved policy on website	By 2028	IDB	
3	3a	Work with stakeholders to identify and quantify the effects of siltation and channel management within the Hundred Foot River on the operation of the slackers along cradge bank and IDB operations	No. of meetings attended to discuss improvements to the Hundred Foot River i.e. <i>Tidal River Management Project</i>	2026 then annually	IDB	EA, RSPB, WWT, Private Landowners

8. Monitoring

Appropriate indicators have been set for each of the IDB's biodiversity actions. The individual action plans set out the indicators and measurables which will be used to assess progress and execution against the plan. The IDB will review actions and indicators at least annually.

The overall plan will be updated at least every 5 years but is a dynamic document so may change more frequently for example in the light of monitoring outcomes or changing priorities.

9. Reporting

The Board is responsible for ensuring that progress against the Plans' targets are routinely reviewed and reported, at least annually, at Board meetings to allow the Board to discuss and review BAP activity and to modify the BAP and actions to meet the objectives where necessary.

Annual summary progress reports will detail which actions have been progressed according to the plan, any new opportunities identified, risks and issues affecting the objectives or actions, and the contribution actions have made towards achieving the objectives. Recommendations will be made in the light of the monitoring outcomes.

Making this information available to a wider audience is important in increasing the understanding of the importance of the Boards' actions regarding biodiversity and inspiring people about biodiversity. As such, the IDB will make the summary reports available externally in the following ways:

- 1. In the public domain via the IDB's website;*
- 2. Provided to conservation partners and community groups such as Parish Councils to assist with further local biodiversity conservation planning;*
- 3. Provided to local authorities in order to contribute towards their legislative biodiversity reporting requirements including the Local Nature Recovery Strategies;*
- 4. The Local Biological Records Centre.*

10. Appendices

10.1. Appendix I – National Character Area 46 – The Fens - Detailed Statements of Environmental Opportunity

Link to full Fens NCA - [The Fens - National Character Area Profiles](#)

SEO 1: Manage the agricultural landscape and soils which allow the Fens to be a major provider of food and horticultural produce, while seeking to enhance opportunities for biodiversity.

For example by:

- Maintaining the valuable, productive, open agricultural landscape of the Fens National Character Area (NCA) with its high-quality soils, many of which are classed as Grade 1 agricultural land, through sustainable farming and agricultural agreements to the benefit of food production, biodiversity, sense of place and climate change regulation.
- Increasing opportunities to manage and protect the remaining peat resource, for example by raising water levels, to maintain (or enhance where possible) the build-up of organic matter; and encouraging landowners and managers to pursue such activities.
- Encouraging landowners and managers to use sustainable farming methods that protect the soil, such as maintaining vegetative cover and using grass buffer strips to reduce soil erosion from susceptible arable fields in the autumn and winter.
- Encouraging the adoption of good practice to avoid soil compaction and maintain good soil structure.
- Encouraging landowners and managers to manage land to prevent peat from drying out, and to maintain wetted peat soils to reduce loss through compaction, oxidation and wastage.
- For mineral soils in the NCA, promoting management techniques to build up soil organic matter to help maintain and enhance soil quality.
- Encouraging farmers to use techniques such as establishing break crops to manage land and protect soil.
- Encouraging minimum tillage and greater use of organic manures, biosolids and digestates plus soil conditioners, which will help to ameliorate soil losses if pursued on sufficient scale.
- Encouraging the establishment of areas of semi-natural habitat such as reedbed and washland which slow the passage of water through the hydrological system.
- Restoring and managing traditional orchards where there is already a traditional pattern, for example around Wisbech, promoting the planting of new orchards of mixed fruit trees to encourage bees where they are absent, and promoting the expansion of traditional shelterbelts around orchards.

SEO 2: Manage the core wetland complexes and increase their connectivity by enhancing the main rivers, waterways and their associated riparian habitats and improve recreational access opportunities to the Fens.

For example by:

- Promoting the creation and restoration of wetland landscapes through co-ordinated and sensitive management of water resources in conjunction with Fens for the Future partners, including Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) and the farming community.
- Managing key wetland sites, including Wicken, Woodwalton and Holme Fens, remnants of the original fen, together with the great washlands which will form the core wetland complexes.
- In addition to the existing core areas, developing extensions at Baston Fen, Great Fen and Wicken Fen as envisioned in the Wicken Vision, as well as new areas such as Lakenheath Fen, Needingworth and the Wissey Wetland, to create more and larger areas of wetland habitats.

- Improving the water quality and quantity in water bodies in the Fens and improving their habitat value by creating buffer zones and undertaking habitat enhancement works, and identifying means by which issues including diffuse pollution can be co-operatively tackled, thus making a valuable contribution to outcomes required by the Water Framework Directive.
- Critically assessing the engineered network of ditches, installing new water management mechanisms where necessary, to enable localised management of groundwater.
- Encouraging winter flood storage on appropriate areas of land, ensuring appropriate management and control of any water resource created, in accordance with Water Level Management Plans, promoting the reversion of existing flood-storage washlands to permanent grassland with extensive grazing regimes, and promoting the creation of new multi-functional washlands.
- Ensuring that sustainable flood risk management for the Fens is delivered through close partnerships.
- Promoting and establishing strategic, appropriately sized areas for biodiversity across the Fens to mitigate the impacts of local, summer storm-related catchment flooding, and to develop robust populations.
- Integrating and developing water resource management within flood management works and land management regimes, particularly at break point areas along the edge of the fen.
- Ensuring that the soils remain adequately hydrated to prevent erosion and maintain soil chemistry, especially where these soils could form ochre and become extremely acidic if dried and re-wetted.
- Promoting the creation of permissive and definitive access to increase opportunities for people to visit the Fens using sustainable transport methods; identifying the strategic gaps in the network and providing public transport in association with employment, heritage, education and recreation initiatives for local people and neighbouring towns and cities; and ensuring that existing projects with capacity such as Fens for the Future and the Fens Waterway Link address recreational and access issues.
- Identifying the strategic access gaps in the network and providing public transport in association with employment, heritage, education and recreation initiatives for local people and neighbouring towns and cities.

SEO 3: Plan for the creation of new coastal landscapes in the Wash area that are adapted and resilient to the impact of climate change, for the benefit of people and wildlife.

For example by:

- Seeking opportunities to reinstate intertidal salt marshes through realignment from arable to extensively grazed salt marsh, in line with the Wash Shoreline Management Plan.
- Seeking opportunities to create grazing marsh, reedbed and salt marsh throughout the Fens to compensate for losses of these habitats at the coast as a result of climate change and associated isostatic adjustment-induced sea-level rise, or where work carried out has damaged habitat.
- Seeking opportunities to identify and monitor key coastal active process sites.
- Replacing habitat lost from the coast through the East of England Regional Habitat Creation Programme.
- Planning for provision of permissive and definitive access (including the coastal access path) to increase opportunities for people to visit the Fens using sustainable transport methods.

SEO 4: Conserve, manage and enhance the Fens landscape and increase educational opportunities to access its geodiversity, archaeology and cultural heritage to enhance enjoyment and understanding for those who live and work in and visit the Fens.

For example by:

- Protecting and appropriately managing the historic environment, for its contribution to local character and sense of identity and as a framework for habitat restoration and

sustainable development.

- Improving the condition of heritage assets through appropriate measures and seeking to reduce conflicting or unsympathetic management regimes, while recognising the high potential in this landscape for undiscovered remains.
- Providing a wider understanding of the geological record of environmental change held within the peat and associated Quaternary sediments, and supporting demonstration projects and sites that illustrate the cultural history, successional fenland habitats and geodiversity of the Fens.
- Managing and conserving the geological exposures throughout the Fens by the removal of undergrowth and the prevention of fly-tipping on these sites, in addition to identifying and protecting new (key) sites as they are discovered.
- Making links between geodiversity, archaeology and cultural heritage, building towards an integrated approach with the surrounding natural environment/landscapes.
- Conserving and monitoring buried geological and archaeological remains that are under threat through erosion of peat, increased or inappropriate cultivation, drying out from dewatering for irrigation, and pressures from development.
- Conserving historic landmark buildings and earthwork sites together with their setting, especially on the settled fens and clay islands.
- Using understanding of the area's traditional and historic architecture, and its distinct patterns of settlement, to inform appropriate conservation and use of historic buildings and farmsteads, and to plan for and inspire any environmentally beneficial new development that makes a positive contribution to local character.
- Promoting understanding of the benefits and potential adverse impacts of wind farms and associated electricity transmission pylons, which are an increasing feature of the fenland landscape.

SEO 5: Seek partners to aid in the development and future provision of new, distinctive, Fenland economies.

For example by:

- By promoting fenland cuisine and food preparation using local ingredients.
- Promoting natural art and craft production (such as baskets, woven reed mats, screens and fences for garden or poultry/ animal management purposes) in order to diversify the economic opportunities and output from Fenland resources.